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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 1

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

I AM

I am regretting the past

And fearing the future.

Suddenly God was speaking:

"MY NAME IS 'I AM.' "

I waited. God continued:

"When you live in the past,

With its mistakes and regrets,

It is hard. I am not there.

MY NAME IS NOT 'I WAS.'

"When you live in the future,

With its problems and fears,

It is hard. I am not there.

MY NAME IS NOT 'I WILL BE.'

"When you live in this moment,

It is not hard. I am here.

MY NAME IS 'I AM.'

Selected by Sister Mildred Skiles

PUTTING THE PUZZLE TOGETHER

Jigsaw puzzles are designed to challenge our abilities to bring together diverse pieces into a complete picture. Until all the pieces have been connected, it remains unfinished.

Puzzles come in various levels of difficulty. For little children, puzzles come in tray form. There is a border to hold the pieces together. On the bottom, there is a faint outline of the shape of each piece, so the child is given a hint about where each belongs. As children develop, the puzzles become more difficult. The pieces are large and not so numerous. It takes greater skill to put together one of these puzzles than a tray puzzle. Later a person advances to more difficult puzzles, with a great number of pieces. The pieces are often small and the design gives fewer clues about their location in the complete puzzle. Today, there are many specialty puzzles that are even more difficult than the usual jigsaw puzzle.

Sometimes children's puzzles are packaged with three or four in one box. If care is not taken, these puzzles can become mixed together. When putting one of these puzzles together, it becomes even more difficult because the pieces are mixed together. The makers of children's puzzles often solve this problem by printing a different design on the back of each of the puzzles. That way the pieces of one puzzle can be distinguished from the pieces of the other puzzles. Picking the pieces of one puzzle out of a mixture of puzzles is an extreme challenge.

Entering a new year is like putting together a puzzle from a mixture of pieces randomly thrown together. Life will present many puzzles throughout the year. The correct solution for those puzzles will require a great deal of Spiritual insight.

James and John present two thoughts that illustrate this puzzle. "Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?" James 3:11.

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"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" I John 4:20. A spring can not produce both salt water and fresh water. Even if it is close to the ocean, it must either produce salt water or fresh water. Trying to get both kinds of water from a spring is like trying to put a puzzle together from the pieces of many puzzles. It is impossible. We use our mouths and tongues to praise God. We use the same mouths and tongues to express hatred for our fellowmen. It is honorable to praise God. When we hate men, we hate those who are created in His image. This is another impossibility.

In the year ahead of us, we will be putting together many puzzles. Some will be more difficult than others. Trying to worship God at the same time, we demean our Brother is like assembling a puzzle from pieces belonging to several different puzzles.

There are two parts to our Spiritual lives. Like a puzzle they must be put together to form the whole picture. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27. These two thoughts bring together the social and doctrinal aspects of Christianity. The puzzle of fitting together these two elements is a part of the challenge of living to please God. He wants us to live unspotted from the world. We are to have the correct beliefs that will instruct us so we will live to do His pleasure instead of the world's. We also have a duty to seek the welfare of not only our fellow believers but of all who we can possibly help. We are to extend love, help and gifts to all manner of mankind, just as God has extended His love and succor to us. It can be a difficult puzzle to find the balance between the two. To overemphasize either at the expense of the other is like trying to put two puzzles together as one. These two elements are not incompatible with each other. They are interrelated. A correct doctrine will produce concern for the needs of others.

As we enter upon this new year, we have the opportunity to put the puzzle together. We can forget the unsolved puzzles of the past as we begin this new puzzle. We still can not put two puzzles into one. We can not get salt water and fresh water from the same fountain. We can not love God and hate people at the same time. We can not claim to serve God, while we ignore the needs of others.

Do you enjoy the challenge of putting together a jigsaw puzzle? Your greatest challenge is the puzzle of life. Are you putting it together in a way that will please God?

M.C.Cook

THE DUNKARD BRETHREN MISSION

In Kampala, capital city of Uganda, the Dunkard Brethren Elders Paul L. Stump and Dale Jamison, the treasurer of the General Mission Board and chairman of the Board of Trustees, officially launched the African Mission.

On a ten day mission trip to Uganda, they and their wives arrived from the United States via Nairobi, Kenya.

The entire period was exciting and busy for the Lord. To promote the mission work, Elders Paul Stump and Dale Jamison participated in the teaching of the baptism class Saturday night.

During the Sunday Service at Nateete in Kampala Dunkard Brethren Church, the service was led by Bro. Godfrey Kizza, followed by the preaching by Bro. Paul L. Stump. There was a baptism class thereafter for more converts by Bro. Dale Jamison. Then we took off to the baptism site at our largest lake in Uganda near Kampala, a twenty minute drive to Lake Victoria. We were full of joy to witness the first mission church members of the Dunkard Brethren Mission in Africa being baptized. There entered Godfrey Kiiza with Bro. Paul L. Stump at hand. Bro. Dale Jamison did not hesitate to bring in and out people (Ugandans) for baptism. Mary Stump and her counterpart Doris Jamison supported the occasion with melodies and hymns encouraging the converts in and out of the lake waters.

It was a great and important occasion to have both men baptize the members. Bro. Dale came in and officiated to many persons too. He became tired and called on Bro. Paul to continue. There was great victory to see twenty-two people receive baptism. Back to the history of the mission, our African mission of the Dunkard Brethren Church began five months ago this year in April. The church is growing so fast, there is need for the gospel to many souls. With the main church at Nateete, there are two up-coming congregations at Butambala, Kakumiro and Buwama.

There are a lot of orphans and widows in our congregations. At Butambala Congregation it was surprising to record sixty-two children. Forty-eight of them being orphans of both parents and fourteen from parents unable to care for them. All of these children do not go to public schools, neither do they receive any education. They do not have clothes so put on rags. They are dirty, poorly fed, lack bedding and have no medical attention. Yet, they are hungry for the Gospel. The Dunkard Brethren Mission with Godfrey and Gorret Kizza have begun an important ministry among the children in the Dunkard Brethren Church in Africa.

Could you be part and parcel of the same ministry? These children attend Bible classes, Sunday services, but they lack education. There is a great need to educate and take care of these young ones. At present we can put them in public schools. As funds become available to have a mission school, it will be built for them in future.

We invite interested families or volunteer sponsors to assist these needy children, by paying their educational fees. This can be done monthly to pay their tuition fees.

We shall be glad to have you dear Brethren respond to this urgent need; as we aim at building a strong future foundation for the Dunkard Brethren Church in Africa.

Brother Godfrey Kizza
P.O. Box 21188
Kampala, Uganda

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Clock Not Started

J. H. Moore

On the top of my office desk is a small nickel clock, which is wound every morning. Every Monday morning it is necessary to set the clock as well as wind it, for during Sunday it runs down. On Monday morning I wound the clock and observed the hands were where I had placed them an hour or more before. Then I noticed that the clock was not running. It then occurred to me that while I had wound the clock and set it right, still I had failed to start it. To myself I said, "Just like some church members,—set right, made ready for a long run, but never started."

I got to thinking, and wondered whose fault it is that so many members are standing still. Some used to run well, but they stopped for some cause, and did not get started again. I have known some of them to appear before the church, and apparently be set right before the public as well as before the church, but for some cause they did not run; they could not be induced to keep time with the church and her work. Yes, they did, one time, run well. Some force hindered them, and now, in the spiritual life, there is no activity.

When I saw my clock was not running I took it down, gave it a good shake, set it right again and then it went on doing its duty. I do not mean to say that people who live and do nothing always need a shaking up, but they certainly need something more than a mere letting alone. They need to be started in the Lord's work, and it is one of the puzzling questions, sometimes, to know just how to start them. Jonah, on a certain occasion, had a little experience, down deep in the sea, that started him in the right direction, and he kept going until he reached Nineveh, where the Lord had a special work awaiting him.

People are sometimes converted, as we call it. They come to church, and, so far as outward appearances are concerned, seem to be just right. But they do not run. By them the name of God is not glorified. They are just the same today that they were when they came into the church a year ago. There has been no progress, and no advancement in the Christian life. Judged by the standard of a babe in Christ Jesus, they may be all right, but they do not grow to manhood in the Lord's cause. They were apparently all right in the beginning, but they never got started. Some of them never got started to giving thanks at the table for their daily bread. They know nothing of the family altar, and cannot be depended upon to help forward the Lord's work. Surely, they are just like my clock; set all right, wound up, apparently ready for usefulness, but do not run. I verily believe that they need a shaking up.

I have known ministers to be fully prepared for active duty. All the necessary authority was given them; they were wisely instructed and then left to carry forward the Lord's work. But they did not move out, they did

not preach. They never got started, and years later they were, so far as usefulness is concerned, just where the installation services left them,—set right, wound up with all necessary authority to preach the Word but not started.

Well, whose fault is it that all these people are not started? Is it their own fault, or is it the fault of some one else? A persecution at Jerusalem one time started a certain number of the brethren out into the world to preaching the Gospel. On a certain occasion the Macedonian call started Paul. But must all preachers be started in this way? Must something of this kind be depended upon to start into work the babes in Christ? Or may not the fault lie at the door of those whose duty it is to look after the flock? Some of us are very much disposed to have all the members accord with the Gospel in matters relating to the externals, but are we doing just the right thing by not attempting to find work for them? Must we spend all of our time and energies trying to get the church ready for work? Verily, whose fault is it that the clock has not been started?

LOOKING BACK — THEN PRESSING FORWARD

Revelation 2:4-5, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works;..."

II Timothy 1:13, "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:13-14, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

The words from the Book of Revelation were written to the Church at Ephesus. They are true of a large portion of the earthly church today. We believe it is important to remember the traditions handed down to us by our forefathers. However, these traditions must be examined in the light of Holy Scripture. At one time every group that existed declared that they had their origin in Holy Scripture. Some of these proved their cultic nature by declaring that other books were on the same status as Holy Scripture. Many added the traditions and teachings of men to Holy Scripture and declared them to be equal. Beyond these actions was the fact that many had left their first love.

We believe that we, as individuals, have also left our first love in many instances. In the past few years we have met individuals who claim to have a special relationship with the Holy Spirit that is not in harmony with the Holy Scriptures. In John 16:13 we read, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he will not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come." These individuals have replaced a love of Holy Scripture for a manmade revelation. The supposed wisdom of human

science replaces an acceptance of a literal understanding of Genesis chapters one and two which is supported by other portions of Scripture. Some have accepted the false religions of the world as having truth that can be used along side of, and in some instances in place of, Holy Scripture. Paul instructs us to "hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me." In I Timothy 6:20-21 Paul warns, "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith..." While theistic evolution was not an issue in Paul's day, it certainly falls under the category of "science falsely so called."

The Church at Ephesus would be considered a fundamental or conservative church in our day. For they "canst not bear them which are evil." They also "tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars." On top of that they "hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted." How then had they left their first love? They even "hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate." We believe that the ideals and customs of the world had begun to replace their first love of the Lord Jesus Christ and Holy Scriptures.

There are those who teach once you are saved you are eternally secure and have no need for a daily cleansing. Others teach that you can reach spiritual perfection in this life. The Apostle Paul says, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended." Paul realized that he had to fight the good fight of faith to reach his heavenly goal. He goes on to say that he forgets those things that are behind. Those sins we have committed that are repented of are forgotten by God and washed clean by the blood of Christ. We can forget them, Praise God. Paul does not end there. He says he reaches forth unto those things which are before. It must be our desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul ends with the words, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Let this be our desire in this new year, should the Lord tarry His return. Let us forsake false teachings and worldly desires. Let us be sure that we have not left our first love. Then press forward "in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."

If you have never experienced the forgiving love of Jesus Christ we pray that 1996 will be your year to begin a new life in Him.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

MEDITATION

And now, my soul, another year,
Of thy short life is past;
I cannot long continue here,
And this may be my last.

Much of my hasty life is gone,
Nor will return again;
And swift my passing moments run—
The few that yet remain.

Awake, my soul, with utmost care
Thy true condition learn:
What are thy hopes? how sure? how fair?
What is thy great concern?

Behold, another year begins;
Set out afresh for heav'n;
Seek pardon for thy former sins,
In Christ so freely giv'n.

Devoutly yield thyself to God,
And on his grace depend;
With zeal pursue the heav'nly road,
Nor doubt a happy end.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Making a New Years Resolution

There is no indication in the New Testament that the early Christians observed the New Year in any formal way. However, there is a precedent for this celebration in the Israelite economy in the Old Testament.

The civil year of the Jews began, not in January, but in mid-September. The beginning of the year (Rosh Hashanah) was marked by the wonderful Feast of Trumpets. At that time, the trumpets were blown and the people were gathered together for a holy convocation. This was recognized as an acknowledgment that all of God's people would one day be gathered around His throne, when the Messiah would come to establish His kingdom. This was a time of rejoicing and expectation, that possibly during the coming year the Lord would come to His people.

This time of joy and anticipation was immediately followed by ten days of repentance and confession, culminating in the solemn observance of Yom Kippur, the "Day of Atonement." This was a day of mourning and confession of sins. It was climaxed ultimately by the symbolic substitutionary sacrifice of the two goats, atoning for the sins of the people. The details of this ceremony are described in the sixteenth chapter of Leviticus.

After offering a bullock as a sacrifice for his own sins, the High Priest was directed by God to select two goats. One was slain. His blood was offered at the mercy-seat in the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle. This blood represented the blood of all the individual believers in the

congregation, who deserved death because of their own sins against the Lord. It was accepted by God in substitution and was considered by Him an atonement for their sins.

The second goat, the "scapegoat" was then sent away into the wilderness, after the sins of the people were confessed over his head by the High Priest. The two goats symbolized to the people the great truths that "the wages of sin is death" and "without shedding of blood is no remission."

As this solemn ritual was repeated every New Year, the people were compelled to remember the awful and deadly character of sin, in the sight of a holy God. As they confessed their sins, they saw God's judgment inflicted on the innocent substitute. They undoubtedly made a Godly RESOLUTION to try to live more righteously and thankfully in the coming year. This should also be our New Years Resolution for 1996.

"Christ...hath appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." With this truth before us, it is proper and fitting, that we should observe the coming of a New Year as a time of remembrance and confession of sins and of prayerful determination to serve Him more faithfully and effectively than we have in the past. We do not have to look forward with only shadowy understanding to a coming Saviour as did the ancient Israelites, but we can rejoice in the clear light of a perfect salvation completely accomplished in the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The most important and essential decision we can make this New Year's Day or any other day is to receive Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour and Lord. If you have not done that...DO IT NOW and resolve to serve Him from this time forward. If you are already a believer, thank Him for the opportunity to serve Him and seek to grow in grace. Each new day, and particularly each New Year, should be a time of resolution and confession. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Have a Happy New Year and Jesus!

Brother Len Wertz

REQUEST FOR SPONSORS OF AFRICAN ORPHANS

Bro. Godfrey Kiiza is asking assistance in meeting the needs of the many orphans, or children having only one parent, who is disabled (for the purposes of this article, these children also will be included in the term, "orphans") We feel this is a worthy work and feel we should make the needs known to the Brotherhood.

Uganda has suffered a civil war. They also have been hit hard with disease. Well over 25% of the adult population perished in the war, or have died of disease. As a result, there are literally thousands of children who are orphans. Many find a home with others, but many others exist from day to day on whatever they can find to eat and clothe themselves.

At our Butambala church alone, there are approximately sixty of these orphans. As a Board responsible for the oversight of this work, we have

discussed how and what assistance we should be providing. We feel our focus should be on the Spiritual needs, and endeavor to meet those needs, by providing oversight, support, Bibles, vehicles, buildings, and so forth. Yet, we feel very strongly that we cannot ignore the material needs of the individuals. We, as a church, can only scratch the surface of the many needs in Uganda. There are needs for orphanages, better health care, education, water, (which is carried from long distances and is often polluted), and sanitation just to name a few of the many needs.

The children with whom we are working, generally have been living with others in the community, but are still lacking in clothing, bedding, medical attention and education. Uganda does not provide for a free education for its citizens. Education must be paid by the student's families or sponsors. The orphans have no opportunity for an education as there is no one to pay for their education. This affects their future employment, as well as their ability to read and study the Scriptures when they are at church.

Bro. Godfrey has made an appeal for us to sponsor these children, providing funds for schooling, and some very basic emergency medical care. All who are interested in sponsoring orphans in Africa can do so through the African Mission Board. We felt if the Board handled the money and forwarded it to Bro. Godfrey, it could be done much less costly, and used on a more timely basis. Checks mailed to Africa often take in excess of two months before the funds are available to them for the work. If we receive the money, it can be wired over along with the funds we are sending without additional cost. The funds can be available for the needs of the orphans on a much more timely basis.

We would ask that you make at least a one year commitment and send the funds for at least two months at a time. Send your requests for a student(s) to Bro. Ray Reed, 302 Percival, Dallas Center, IA 50063, as well as your payments. Specify if you prefer to sponsor a boy or a girl. Bro. Godfrey will supply information about each child's situation, along with a picture of the student.

Bro. Godfrey has requested \$20.00 a month for each student. A breakdown of the funds will be as follows: \$15.00 for educational tuition and supplies, and \$5.00 for basic emergency medical/first aid care.

Thank you,
African Mission Board

SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 1, 1936
THE TALE OF LIFE
Ida M. Helm

A poet of Israel has written, "We spend our years as a tale that is told." We sometimes refer to the old year as a dead year, but the years never die, they simply step aside to make way for the New Year that is about to begin a new volume of the tale of life. Memories of the past year linger with us,

and the days and months have contributed their share of material to help make us what we are.

The record is sealed in the volume of 1935. Are we satisfied with what the year holds in her relentless hands? She holds what we gave her. She will carefully guard the volume till the great Judge shall bid her open the book. We may, as Esau of old seek with tears to change the record, but the guard is relentless, there is not one thought nor word nor act that we can change.

Our lives have in a measure affected the lives of our neighbors and friends and their lives have in a degree affected ours. Have we helped each other to become a little more Christ-like? Have we remembered God's words, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal. 6:2.) Or have we sometimes put stumbling blocks in another's way?

"What a checkered thing this life will be, when we see it unveiled in eternity."

In our glad welcome of the New Year we may forget the old year and her solemn charge, but the record is not forgotten by God. He has a work for each one of us to do in the year 1936. No one else can ever do the work God intends for me to do. If I sleight my opportunities I can receive no reward. I can not hear from my Savior's lips the blessed words "well done." Of our selves we are weak, but Jesus our Lord and Savior is strong and able to help us accomplish the work He had for us to do. His promise is "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." The days and nights of the New Year He is giving to us are not intended to be used by us as a merry-go-round or an amusement stage, but a field of conquest.

Hard struggles lie in the path over which we must travel, for the adversary knows his time is short and he seeks to destroy as a roaring lion or to deceive as an angel of light, transforming himself so as the better to deceive. He doesn't care how he works just so he can make sure of getting his prey. He would stop the witness bearing for Christ of every Christian if he could. But there is One who has conquered Satan. He is the Christ of God. He is all powerful. He has traveled over the way we all must go, He will be our guide and lead us safely to the end if we will follow Him. He knows all the pitfalls and dangerous places along the way and He has safely bridged them all.

While we are thinking about the work before us, we must remember that the standard of the work we accomplish will not be above the standard of our character. In spite of self-deceiving appearances, we can do nothing better or other, in reality, than to build ourselves into our work. The issues of life proceed out of the heart.

The New Year will bring to us opportunities for service. Do you remember the haughty knight, Sir Launfal, how he started in young manhood to seek for something wonderful, and as he passed his castle gate he saw a poor leper crouching by the wall who held out his lean hands

and begged for alms, and the proud knight scornfully tossed him a piece of gold and rode on; you remember he sought in many lands for something great and at last when his garments were worn threadbare and his hair was thinned and whitened with age he returned penniless to his earldom and found it occupied by another, and as he sat down to muse of happier days he saw the old leper still crouching by the wall and again he plead, "For Christ's sweet sake I beg an alms." In tender love and pity the humbled, bankrupt knight shared his last crust of bread with the leper and brought him a drink of water, when suddenly the leper was transformed and stood before him glorified. Lo! it was the Lord of Glory to whom he had ministered.

Let us improve the opportunities for service as they come to us, no matter how insignificant they may appear to us, and not like the mistaken knight look only for great things to do lest at last we be compelled to return empty handed to the place from which we started.

The opportunities that may appear to us as humble beggars and not worth our notice, may be heavenly opportunities sent to us from God. Jesus said, "Behold I set before you life and death," and He tells us to take our choice. As we enter the New Year let us remember that the sting of death lurks in so many seemingly innocent things that are found on the highway of worldly pleasure, and that the fruit of the "Tree of Life," can be obtained only on the narrow way, the way to the cross over which the King trod in anguish.

The New Testament is the guide book that points out for us the way that He went and shows us where the delectable fruit is growing, and points out the pit-falls and dangerous places where we may fall to destruction. The Bible is a light to our pathway. When the tale of life is once finished it can never be changed and we must meet every thought word and act when the book of our life is read in the world beyond the grave.

A poet has graphically described this solemn ordeal in the following lines:

I sat alone with my conscience,
In a place where time had ceased;
And we talked of my former living
In the land where the years increased.

And I felt I should have to answer
The question it put to me,
And face and answer the questions
Throughout an eternity.

The ghosts of forgotten actions
Came floating before my sight;
And things I thought were dead things,
Were alive with a terrible might.

And the vision of all my past life
Was an awful thing to face;
Alone with my conscience sitting
In that solemn, silent place.

Then I felt that the future was present,
And the present would never go by;
For it was but the scenes of my past life,
Grown into eternity.

Then I woke from my timely dreaming,
And the vision passed away,
And I knew that the far-away warning
Was a warning of yesterday.

And I pray I may not forget it,
In this land before the grave;
That I may not cry in the future,
And no one come to save.

TARRY

"...but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Luke 24:49.

"...tarry one for another." I Cor. 11:33.

"...My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch." Mark 14:34.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31.

After spending another wonderful Lovefeast with the Lititz Congregation this Fall, we were taken back to the scripture in I Corinthians 11:33 which says, "Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another." We meditated much upon these words and realized that there were benefits to be had by tarrying. We are told to tarry one for another in the Lovefeast because of the solemnity of the occasion. It gives us a chance to reflect upon the good things of God and the ultimate sacrifice that was made on our behalf. Tarrying one for another also shows us to be patient and loving one with another, as Jesus was with us. Just as the footwashing service teaches us humility, tarrying one for another helps us learn patience.

The disciples of Jesus were told to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from God. They gathered together and prayed. The scriptures say they were in one accord in one place. They prayed and tarried and the Holy Ghost fell upon them as they were promised. There

are benefits to tarrying. God promised Abraham a people as numerous as the stars of the sky. He was old and so was his wife. He could not wait. The end result of Abraham's impatience was the Arab nation, which has been a thorn in the side of Israel ever since. Many times as Christians we run ahead of God, not recognizing God's timing and preferring our own. Disastrous results often follow. This writer speaks from experience. As a young Christian I was not as patient with others as I should have been and did not realize God had a plan and a timetable for me. May God help us to accept His plan for us.

Just as Abraham could not tarry because he perceived a weakness in his flesh, so the disciples, when asked to tarry with Jesus, fell asleep instead of watching. What a blessing they would have had if they only would have stayed awake a little while longer! It says in Isaiah that they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. There is a blessing in waiting for Him. In James 1:4 we read, "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Today in this hurried world our cry to God is, "Give me patience and give it to me now!" We recall hearing the testimonies of many saints that spent much time in finding the Lord. Our own quest for salvation took three years, with many agonizing and trying times. Many times we felt like giving up. Those who tarried in the upper room probably did not know entirely what it was they were waiting for, yet they, like Paul, were obedient to the heavenly vision. After all, they saw Christ rise out of their sight. We also, through faith, can wait upon the Lord and believe His promises knowing that if we are obedient He will indeed carry us through.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

OBITUARY

CLYDE O. BEEMAN

Bro. Clyde Oscar Beeman, 61, of 66 N. Water Street, Frostburg, Maryland, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, May 2, 1995. "He fought a good fight and finished the course, henceforth is laid up for him a crown of righteousness."

Born July 5, 1933, in Garrett County, Maryland, he was the son of Oscar Beeman and Flossie (Broadwater) Beeman, Lonaconing, Maryland.

Bro. Beeman was a retired employee of Kelly Springfield Tire Company. He was a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church, Savage River, Maryland. He was a member of the Country Gospel Singers, a family group, as singer, songwriter and musician for twenty-four years.

Surviving in addition to his parents are his wife, Jean (Warnick) Beeman; one son, David C. Beeman and wife Gail, Shaft, Maryland; two daughters, Melonie F. Drew and husband Larry, Shaft, Maryland and Gloria M. Knieriem, Frostburg, Maryland; three brothers, Homer L. Beeman and wife

Freda, Westernport, Maryland, Bobby Beeman and wife Sandra, Vale Summit, Maryland and Roger L. Beeman and wife Sandy, Springfield, Virginia; three sisters, Edna M. Clark and husband Glen, Knapps Meadow, Maryland, M. Louise Skidmore and husband Stanley, Vale Summit, Maryland and Lavona K. Sines and husband Ronnie, Clarysville, Maryland; eight grandchildren, Steven Beeman, Chad Beeman, Amy Goldsworthy, J. R. Drew, Jessica Drew, Chantel Knieriem, Daniel Knieriem and Tyler Knieriem.

Funeral services were conducted at 1:00 P.M., Friday, May 5, at the Durst Funeral Home, Frostburg, Maryland, with the Rev. Alan Smith, the Rev. Bill Clark and Bro. Virgil Leatherman officiating. Interment was in the Laurel Hill Cemetery, Moscow, Maryland.

Clyde was a very "special" person. Even during his illness he had a big smile and hello for everyone who entered his room. His testimony of his faith and love for the Lord will never be forgotten.

Sadly missed by the family.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF CLYDE

He was a man who loved his Lord,
Good husband, father and son.
God took him home to live in Heaven
For his work on earth was done.

He sang the gospel for 24 years
As he traveled throughout the land.
Wrote songs of praise, played lead guitar
With "The Country Gospel Band."

He was a man of integrity
Who shared God's love with his friends.
Prayed faithfully for his family
Persevering until the end.

We loved him much and we miss him
But we'll see him again someday
He waits at the portals of Heaven,
To welcome us home to stay.

-Edna (Beeman) Clark

The family wants to thank everyone who expressed their love for Clyde. Also for the cards, flowers, food and especially the many prayers offered up for Clyde.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXIV

JANUARY 15, 1996

NO. 2

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

BEAR TESTIMONY

Study to show thyself approved,
A follower of God.
Go, tell the words that Jesus spoke
While on this earth He trod.

Speak up, my brother, for the Lord;
He has done much for you,
Let others hear His holy Word;
Show it by actions, too.

Bear testimony for your Lord
If you want salvation;
God will guide in humble service,
Not in emulation!

If you will sacrifice for Him,
He will salvation give.
Then in that city up above
Eternally you'll live.

-Irene Stout

ONE STEP AT A TIME

The longest journey begins with the first step. As we look around us we realize that a big thing is composed of many small parts.

Our bodies are composed of many diverse and interconnected parts. Each part supplies a need of the body. Whether bone, organ, muscle or tissue, each part contributes to the body's ability to live and function.

A building is constructed of many interconnected parts. Without the varied parts of a building it could not shelter. If built without a major component, it would not be safe to be in.

The world itself is made up of many elements. When the scientist dissects the earth, he finds atoms and molecules of the basic elements. Each element, in conjunction with the other elements, provides the framework for the earth's being.

The great events that have happened throughout the world's history have been caused by many small events that combined to bring about the greater historic event. Wars do not just happen. There are contributing factors that precipitate these events. The one outstanding event that triggers the beginning of warfare is just one more event in a long line of provocations. World War II did not start with Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939. That war had started a long time before. The rise of Hitler to power in Germany was one factor. His continued aggression at the expense of weaker countries was another. The world's economic situation played a part. The weakness of the leaders of the opposing governments was a significant force in allowing these events to transpire into war. World

THE BIBLE MONITOR

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War II had its roots in many countries, many leaders' hearts and minds and in prevailing conditions. These all had a part in bringing the war unto the world's stage of action.

Just as a terrible war does not come by one simple act, so problems between individuals do not flame into hatred and distrust by a single action. People come to dislike and distrust each other through a series of failed opportunities to like each other. There may be certain preexisting conditions that affect people's relationships before they even meet. There may be a prejudice that clouds the relationship. Even Christians can be limited in their ability to deal with people with certain lifestyles. There are many things that influence one person's perception of another person. The first impression may be negative, although undeserved. Because of a poor first impression, a misspoken remark or some other trivial or innocent incident, an enmity is born between two people. If there is no willingness to overcome these poor beginnings, these harsh feelings are apt to escalate into a very negative relationship. When the relationship reaches this point, the only real cure is not a "papered-over" agreement to get along. A more basic cure is needed. This involves a need for a Spiritual solution. There is a need for confession, repentance and forgiveness. Without this radical solution, there will be no real peace between these individuals. They need a war-ending peace treaty that is based on Biblical principles. Solutions that leave Biblical principles out can never be entirely successful.

It is not only our relationships with others but our own inner failures that affect our lives. We need improvement, internally. There are many ways in which we fail to live up to the pattern given in God's Word. This may include impatience, anger, violent action or words, impiety, worldliness, immodesty, or many other failings. It may not be these negative activities. It may be the lack of positive activities. Like the Pharisees of old, we may lack judgment, mercy and faith. It is not that we do things that are ungodly, instead we fail to do the things that promote Christ and Christian living.

What is the remedy for this condition? First there is the need for confession and repentance, especially where wrong has been done. To merely regret and belittle oneself will not improve the situation. A change needs to be made. Just as the present situation is the result of years of continued habits, the situation can be improved by establishing a new set of habits. These habits will not be easy to initiate. New habits, whether good or bad, are made over a period of time by repeating the new activity a number of times. It is one step at a time. The steps may be baby steps at first. They may be giant

steps when the new activity becomes more familiar. It is better to change a little for the better than to condemn the obvious lack.

As you look at your self, your activities and your attitudes are you pleased with what you see? Are you willing, with the leading the Holy Spirit and the help of God, to make the needed changes? Are you willing to make these changes one step at a time?

M.C.Cook

ABOUT SERVANTS

"And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?" Job 1:8.

As we consider the subject of servants, I would like to consider first the worthy servant and then the unprofitable servant.

To see the task that was given to the servant, we look first at Isaiah 41:28, "For I beheld, and there was no man; even among them, and there was no counselor, that when I asked of them, could answer a word."

And also at Ezekiel 22:30, "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."

Since no man was found that was able, he provided the servant who was both able and willing.

We read of this one in Isaiah, chapters 42 through 53. These are sometimes called the servant songs of Isaiah.

God describes this servant in Isaiah 42:1-9, also please read Matthew 12:17-21.

In Isaiah 49:1-12 the servant speaks of the promise of God that he will uphold him. Again in Isaiah 50:4-9 the servant speaks of the tongues and of the ear, given him by the Lord God. John 12:49-50, "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak." See also John 7:16 and 8:26.

Again Isaiah 50:5-7. The servant says, "...I was not rebellious, neither turned away back. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. See Luke 9:51.

Isaiah 52:13-15 begins to describe the suffering of the servant, and

continues in the 53rd chapter to describe the suffering of the servant, and for whom and why it was necessary. Isaiah 53:5-6, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

And God was satisfied. Isaiah 53:10-11.

His work on earth was a work of service. Luke 7:22-23. "Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard, how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me."

He crowned His life of service by taking a towel and basin, and washed the disciples' feet, and suffered the agonies of Gethsemane and died on the cross for your sins and mine.

Thus He became the worthy servant of whom God said, "Behold, my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles." See also Matthew 3:17, Matthew 17:5, Mark 9:7-35, John 12:27-29.

God bless you all,
Brother William Carpenter

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Should We Abandon the King James Version of the Bible?

One indication that the Bible is still very much alive, even in these contemporary days of the '90's, when so many strident voices are denying its authority, is the continuing demand for new translations. Parts or all of the Bible are now available in more than twelve hundred different languages. This is twice as many as in 1920. This number is increasing steadily. Wycliffe Bible Translators have a staff of linguists working in almost five hundred different tribes to give them a Bible in their own language.

As far as the English language is concerned, at least twenty-five important translations and paraphrases have received wide usage in the twentieth century. These are in so called "modern English" instead of the supposedly archaic sixteenth-century English of the King James Authorized Version. The need for so many different modern-speech versions is not at all evident.

A modern speech version does have certain advantages, of

course. The Scriptures, as originally given, were in the common language of the people. They were intended by God to be understood and used by ordinary people, not just by priests and scholars. It is equally important today that all men should have access to the Bible in a language that is meaningful to them. There is no doubt that one or another of the modern translations has been of help to many people, who were not reached by the King James Version.

Nevertheless, there is good reason for continuing to regard the latter as our basic English version, with the others used whenever appropriate for supplementary reading and study. In the first place, no modern translation has yet met the test of universal acceptability as the King James has for more than three hundred and fifty years. On the contrary, the very number of new translations is confusing, each with its own advocates and its own peculiar claims and character.

At one time, Scripture memorization was very valuable to Christians but it seems to be becoming a somewhat forgotten discipline. Could it be because it is difficult to decide which version to memorize? If authorities do not agree on what the verse says, why do we want to memorize it?

In addition, many translators of modern versions have been men who were not committed to faith in the full inspiration of the Bible. No matter how well they knew the original language or Bible manuscripts, their low view of Bible infallibility would corrupt their writing. The translators of the King James Version were not only scholars but were men who regarded the Scriptures as totally sacred. They revered the text highly and even used italics in the translation when words were added in the English.

I disagree that King James English is too archaic or difficult to follow. It is written in a simple vocabulary and has a high percentage of one and two syllable words.

The King James Version is universally acknowledged as the greatest masterpiece of English literature. Its beauty and majesty are without parallel in our literary heritage.

The New Testament in the King James Version is based on the Greek text known as the Textus Receptus. It stands alone in this characteristic. The Byzantine text, as preserved through the centuries of Christianity by Greek speaking churches, gives credibility to this writing.

Many translations contain an amazing number of obvious and careless mistakes. Some of these changes could be deliberate alterations. These versions of the Bible need to be used very

carefully, if at all.

There is a valid reason to believe that the King James Version of the Bible is still the most accurate and reliable translation we have today. There would seem to be no reason to replace it with a modern translation.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 15, 1936

FOUR KINDS OF HEARERS

Ethel Brubaker

We find in Christ's teaching in Mark 4:1-20, that there are four kind of hearers; and as we as Christ's followers are sowing the seed in which of the four kinds of soil is it falling? If the seed which we are sowing is not bringing sinners to repentance, is it of carelessness on our part as sowers or on the part of the hearers? According to Mark's gospel we have the hearers as follows:

I. The wayside.

The kind of soil spoken of in this case has been left unbroken and uncultivated; the seed could not get underneath the surface and therefore was devoured by the fowls that came along. So it is with the hearers of the word, their heart is unbroken and hard and is not fit soil to receive the gospel. In such a heart it penetrates not but lies loosely upon the surface. The gospel is not given proper recognition by such hearts as is God's means of restoring them unto Himself. Because the evil one finds some way to snatch away the truth.

II. The Stony Ground.

This is not stones mixed with soil, but stones with a thin layer of soil on top. With such condition the seed springs up quickly and likewise scorches quickly because it has not depth of earth. So it is with the hearers whose hearts are lightly impressed, they receive the word with joy, but when afflictions or persecutions arise, for the word's sake immediately they are offended. Then Satan enters in and devours them; and they are no more living the Christian life.

III. The Thorny Ground.

In this case the ground is good but has thorns in it. The ground is mellow and has sufficient depth but has not been cleared of the thorns. Such people really hear the word of God, but the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches, the lusts of other things of the world enter in and they become unfruitful. There are many different thorny ground hearers of the word, some of which we would like to make mention of.

First, those who are so immersed in worldliness, business and anxious cares, that the good seed cannot come to fruitage.

Second: Those who are rich. The anxious cares in business brings riches and the effects of riches is to blunt the spiritual perception of men and women as we find in I Tim. 6:9-19.

Third: Again we have those running after the pleasures of this life. Many of the enjoyments of the world may be innocent within themselves, but they attract so much time and energy that Bible reading, deep meditation and prayer are crowded out. All these things are as thorns to living a Christian life.

IV. The Good Ground.

This ground is different from all the rest, it has nothing to molest. It is soft and mellow, deep and moist. Therefore it is capable of bringing forth good fruit. Some one hundred, some sixty and some thirty fold, as we have it recorded in Mark 4:20. This shows us that even the honest hearers of the word give forth fruits in different degrees. In the measure that it keeps the heart free from worldliness; cares of riches, pleasure seeking, mote picking and backbitings so that more of the good seed can mature.

Which one of the four hearers are we? If we are one of the first three let us get busy and see if we can not raise our standard just a little higher each day as we travel the way that leads from earth to eternal glory. So let us as young and old that are trying to live the Christ like life be careful what kind of a life we live and the kind of light we show to the world that we do not keep sinners from repenting and discourage those that are already in the church to an extent that they turn back to the ways of sin.

SILENCE

Silence is a blessed thing. Silence gives us access to the wonderful world of serenity. It is only in silence that we can find an opportunity to develop our personal relationship with God.

Interior prayer offers us another way to use moments of silence to keep ourselves mindful of God's presence during the hours of a busy working day. Interior prayers are prayers of thought, addressed to God. It only requires a moment, while we are walking, working, or driving, to say, "Thank You, Lord."

Is it not just and right, that each day we remember God, and thank Him for the hours of that day, that He has given us? When we lift our eyes to a beautiful sky, or a glorious sunset, is it not right to say "Thank you, Father." Without silence we become estranged from God, and caught in the "Trap of the world," and are removed from the

always present love of Jesus Christ.

It is only in moments of silence that we can have the presence of mind to give our blessing to a less fortunate stranger, a playing child, or to the spirits of those who have gone before us, as we pass a cemetery. We should carry the presence of Jesus Christ with us, everywhere we go, every day of our lives. We can only do this if we make a loving friend of silence.

How can we be aware of the Holy Spirit, guiding and directing our lives if we never stop talking? If we are going to minister to others, must we not be silent and listen? Is not a good listener a blessing to everyone? If we have a loving compassion for the people all around us, must not we be silent and listen to their concerns and needs?

No person who does not love silence can hope to reach his or her spiritual potential. Whenever you are in doubt, be silent...

Bro. Allan Smith

THE FOUNDATION

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone," Ephesians 2:20.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1.

We must be extremely careful nowadays with what we read because the enemy is ready to devour us like a roaring lion. There is also much error on (so-called) Christian radio. In one day I heard several things that have no (or little) basis in scripture, or are just misinterpretation: "speaking in tongues," "slain in the spirit," "walking through cities," and so on. We must stay focused on the foundation.

There are several things we must ask ourselves when we read Christian literature, or any other type for that matter. We must ask first of all, what is the motive of the writer: WHY is this article or book being written?

When reading a periodical like THE MONITOR, it can be understood that the piece of writing has been looked over carefully and approved by the Editor. In the Monitor's case at least, the writers are generally known personally by the Editor. The MONITOR has an agenda. All the articles fit into that agenda. Not all publications are like this. We must ask, is the writer bringing honor and glory to God? Is the writer bringing forth instruction in righteousness? Is the writer indeed writing from the standpoint that the scriptures are entirely true? Is the article being written with the position that Jesus Christ is the incarnate Son of God and that He brought a saving Gospel by living and dying and rising from the dead? Is the writer endeavoring to

provoke the reader unto love and good works? Jesus said in Matthew 5:37, "But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." We must exercise care not to become repetitive. We must love our audience, and point them to Calvary.

A dear friend of mine told me that when he went to Bible College the first thing he was told was this: "In order to get anything out of your time here you must forget everything you ever learned about the Bible and start fresh." My friend was a solid, born-again Christian, yet he was asked to forget his "prejudices." The college clearly taught error. He soon left. We must stay on the foundation.

Everywhere we go God is being excluded. Maybe we should not go there. I wrote a letter to a local newspaper. They would not print it because it had a Bible reference in it. Thank God there are a few newspapers left that will print letters proclaiming the Gospel. We should witness more of the good things of God, and we should write more letters, including letters to newspapers that will print a proclamation of God's Grace.

In I Peter 3:15 it says to be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. It also states in verse 18, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit." This then is the foundation. Let us in every conversation of life remain true to the foundation.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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Newmanstown, PA. 17073

ALL FREE

As I lay in bed last night meditating, it was near midnight. I had kept working until 10:45. As I prepared for bed, the electric went off. Everything went black. I hopped into bed. My mind began to wander and to think about many of the blessings that God gives freely to both saint and sinner. These are blessings that we never could pay for.

Just think of the cost of a sunny day at today's cost of electricity. This could not be done with all of the learning and technology that man is so proud of. Yet if God took away all light, there would not be any electric lights either. All light would vanish from the earth and cavern darkness would surround us. It would be so dark that it could be felt. A person would become paralyzed in his steps.

There followed other thoughts of God's free gifts. One of these is

free water, without which all life would perish. There would be no green grass, trees, flowers, birds, animals or even human beings. Some people will say, "Oh, I pay for my water, it is not free." That water is free. People only pay for the means of getting access to it. He has not only given us the water for physical purposes, He also has given us the water of His Holy Spirit, to keep us alive spiritually and to feel His leading. Sadly, we have failed to follow His guidance so much of the time. We are suffering from a spiritual drought. As we need to use water to sustain life in the flesh, so we should constantly drink of the Holy Spirit to sustain our spiritual life in order to keep in a healthy, spiritual tune with God. Neglect of His guidance brings a withering up of our spiritual lives, just as it does our bodies if we do not have water to drink.

Another free gift of God is the air we breathe. If God removed it, human and animal life would die almost immediately and plant life would follow. No amount of money could buy air. No rescue squads would pick us up. No hospital would admit us. No medical doctor would see us.

Energy is another free gift. Some of the sources are electricity, wood, coal and oil. Without energy our motors would be dead, our cars would not run, our houses would be cold in winter and hot in summer. There would be no refrigeration to preserve our food, no heat to prepare our food, to wash our clothes and to do many other things.

Also human, animal and plant life are gifts from God. Scientists have built robots, computers, and so forth, which have no life or knowledge, except what man puts into them mechanically. They are dead. They have no life or soul. Man has tried putting milk components together but animal life dies on it. It does not have the life additive that God put in mother's milk. People will spend thousands of dollars just to try to live a few days longer, but when God determines that life shall be no longer, the spirit of man flies away. The body is dead until the resurrection day, when God brings soul and body together again. Then man has no power to change his eternal destiny. It is forever sealed to be as we have determined during our life on earth.

These are just a few of God's gifts to man. I do not think it possible to enumerate the many things God gives us free. The healing of our physical bodies is a great gift of God. Man can operate and sew the cut in the flesh together, but only God can heal it. Doctors, who realize this fact, have mentioned it to me different times.

All of these free gifts are given to both saint and sinner by a

merciful God. It costs to put water in our homes, get the energy out of the air and earth so that it can be used, for the medical profession to work on our bodies, but God's gifts are free. The greatest gift of all was His Son, who gave His blood freely to cover our carnal sinful nature and to keep us from eternal death. But as with the physical, we have our part to do in order to obtain that free gift. It is not by laying water pipes, drilling for gas, converting fuel to electricity, and so forth. We first must have faith in God, then praise Him (which, if we do not do, He said that the rocks and the mountains would cry out Luke 19:40), and to repent, be baptized and keep His commandments. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye do whatsoever I have commanded you." Read I John 1:3-6. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. James 1:22. Faith without works is dead. Read James 2:17-20. We would be just as dead as our heating stove would be without fuel, if it were not provided for the fire to burn.

By accepting God's free plan (without money and without price) which He has promised us. We can have eternal life in Heaven, where we will live forever by eating the twelve manner of fruit from the tree of life, drinking crystal clean water from the river of life, visiting and mingling with our family and loved ones of all ages and sing songs of praise together to our Redeemer. He looked on our afflictions and redeemed us from Satan without money and without price. ALL FREE! Praise the Lord! GLORY HALLELUJAH!

Sister Ruth M. Snyder

THE DANGERS OF ALCOHOLIC DRINK

Proverbs 20:1, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

Proverbs 23:29-30, "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine."

The arguments against complete abstinence of strong drink and in favor of moderation are many and varied. Some of them can be construed from Holy Scripture. There may be historic evidence that our Brethren forefathers were not complete teetotalers. One of the strongest arguments in favor of moderation as opposed to complete abstinence is that the Bible condemns drunkenness and not drinking in moderation. While this would, perhaps, appear to be true, it does not alter the fact that there was never a drunkard who did not take the first drink!

Many argue that the Holy Spirit can enable an individual to control the amount of strong drink consumed. We have no doubt of the validity of this argument. The same type of argument is set forth for owning a television or using a VCR. While we believe the Holy Spirit will give us the strength to overcome temptation, we do not believe that He will overrule our free will. Here lies the crux of the problem.

We would not condemn an individual to Hell for using strong drink in moderation, especially if it is for medicinal purposes, anymore than we would condemn an individual to Hell for having a television set in their home. But we would caution that both of these have the potential for causing him to fall from the faith and thereby lose his soul to perdition. As our opening verse warns, "...whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

The problems caused by alcoholic beverages are legion. "Who hath woe?" How many financial disasters have been caused by demon rum, as the old time evangelists named strong drink? "Who hath sorrow?" Anyone with a conscience left will have strong remorse after taking the life of an innocent victim while being in an intoxicated state. Countless numbers have been killed by drunken drivers over the years. Murders and other felonies are often associated with strong drink. Not only do they suffer sorrow but the families of the loved ones killed have sorrow in their hearts also. "Who hath contention?" Many families have been destroyed through the use of strong drink. As verse 33 warns, "Thine eyes shall behold strange women..." "Who hath babbling?" An intoxicated individual has very little control over their thoughts or their tongue. Many a harsh word has been spoken and many unkind and untrue remarks have been made while under the influence of strong drink. We can ask forgiveness but the sting is never completely removed. "Who hath wounds without cause?" A sad picture is given in verse 35. "They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again." Many have suffered harsh treatment from their "friends" while under the influence of liquor. Sadly, not only have many felt the hand of uncalled for punishment but they have administered it as well. There is probably nothing sadder than hearing of an innocent child being abused by an alcoholic father or mother. "Who hath redness of eyes?" This not only describes the appearance of one who habitually uses strong drink but could also be symbolical of diseases associated with strong drink. Many medical scientists believe that strong drink destroys the brain. Many other physical infirmities are directly or indirectly related to strong drink.

We believe verse 31 is a strong argument in favor of complete abstinence. "Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright." Verse 32 gives the results. "At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder."

Brother James M. Hite
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CHURCH OF GOD

Titles and descriptions of the Church of God as given in the Scriptures.

T-emple of God. I Cor. 3:16.

H-ouse of God. I Tim. 3:15.

E-lect. Matt. 24:22.

C-alled. Romans 8:28.

H-eirs of God. Rom. 8:17.

U-nited we stand, divided we fall. (A proverb.)

R-ansomed. Isaiah 45:10.

C-hristians. Acts 11:26.

H-idden ones. Psalms 83:3.

G-eneral Assembly. Hebrews 12:23.

O-bedient. I Peter 1:14.

D-isciples. Matt. 5:1.

E-xcellent. Proverbs 12:26.

S-heep. John 10:3.

T-emple of God. Psalms 135:4

A-sssembly of saints. Hebrews 10:25.

B-elievers. Acts 5:14.

L-ight of the world. Matt. 5:14.

I-mage of God. Rom. 8:29.

S-tones. I Peter. 2:5.

H-oly. I Cor. 3:17.

E-lection. Rom. 9:11.

D-early beloved. Jer. 12:7.

The late Brother Paul R. Myers

OBITUARY

RUSSELL B. SMOOTZ

Bro. Russell Burdette Smootz, 77, Antioch, West Virginia, died October 6, 1995, at the Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Washington, DC

Bro. Smootz was born March 27, 1918, in Elk Garden, West Virginia, and was the son of the late Elmer J. and Blanche (Harris) Smootz.

He was a former employee of American Woodmark Corporation in Moorefield, West Virginia, and a member of the Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church in Antioch. He was a veteran of World War II.

On May 3, 1947, he married the former Ruby M. Rohrbaugh, who survives.

Other survivors include one son, Andrew A. Smootz, Linville, Virginia; two daughters, Sandra Eberly, New Holland, Pennsylvania and Joyce Shaffer, New Creek, West Virginia; one sister, Cletus Kauffman, Broadway, Virginia, and five grandchildren.

Virgil Leatherman, Millard Benner and Frank Shaffer conducted the funeral at 1:00p.m. at the Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church. Burial was at the Knobley Cemetery, Antioch, West Virginia.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Knobley Cemetery.

We wish to thank everyone who sent flowers, cards and gifts. Thanks for all the prayers and kindness shown the family during this time of sorrow.

Ruby M. Smootz and family

NEWS ITEM

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Another time to praise the Lord. Sister Carla Blocher, daughter of Bro. Stephen and Sis. Karen Blocher, braved the cold waters of baptism and entered her name in the Lambs Book of Life.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1996

February 4 - "Ye Must Be Born Again" - John 3:1-13.

1. Compare the first and second births. What are the similarities? What are the differences?
2. Why is it so hard for the natural man to discern and understand Spiritual things?

February 11 - Believing in the Son of God - John 3:14-36.

1. Explain how God's love for everyone is unconditional.
2. How is unbelief a self-condemnation?

February 18 - Living Water - John 4:1-26.

1. What is "The Gift of God" Jesus spoke about to the woman?
2. Explain the process of Spiritual thirst quenching.

February 25 - Harvest Time - John 4:27-42.

1. Why did Jesus compare doing His Father's will to meat?
2. Explain how we today are reaping what was sown by the generations before us.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1996

February 4 - Our Virtue - II Peter 1:3-11, Phil. 4:6-9, I Peter 3:10-12.

1. Is virtue easily attained or must we grow in it?
2. How is "The face of the Lord against them that do evil"?

February 11 - Our dedication-Ex. 32:26-33, II Kings 23:2-3, Phil. 3:7-14

1. What determines whether or not we are on the Lord's side?
2. What covenant must we make with the Lord?

February 18 - Our Anchor - Hebrews 6:1-20.

1. How can we "Go on unto perfection" in our Christian walk?
2. What is our "Anchor of the soul"?

February 25 - Hypocrisy - Matt. 23:12-28, Luke 6:44-49.

1. What did Jesus say about doing the less weighty things?
2. Explain why hypocrisy is sin and compared to swallowing a camel.

Paul Stump
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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXIV

FEBRUARY 1, 1996

NO. 3

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HE IS EVERYWHERE!

We need not climb the hills to find
Our Lord and worship there.
We need not go through valleys low,
For He is everywhere!
Oh, we could go from pole to pole
Or travel the earth's sphere.
And yet our mind is sure to find
That Christ is always near.

What joy is this and with what bliss
We worship at His feet.
The time will come for everyone
When they their Lord shall meet.
Our judgment day we're shown the way
To heaven or to hell.
Worship with love your Lord above—
Then find that all is well.

-Irene Stout

REMOVING THE DROSS

Most natural products contain impurities, therefore refineries are very important to us. In order to guarantee purity in the products we use and eat, they must be refined. The gasoline for our automobiles must be refined from crude oil. Sugar cane must be refined to become table sugar. Many things are potentially useful, but they can not be utilized until they have been refined.

Silver and gold need to be refined before either becomes a metal of great value. Dirt, dross and other impurities are within the ore. It needs to be heated, so the dross can be removed. A very high heat is one of the best purifiers. By whatever manual or mechanical method, the impurity is removed, it is a necessary step. What is potentially valuable does not attain its full value until the impurities have been removed.

Malachi writes to the Jews of his day. He writes of the refiner's work and applies it to them. He speaks of the need for purity in their religious and moral lives. Unfortunately, their lives did not measure up to the standards of God. They were impure. He gave several examples of ways that they had perverted their service of God.

He accused them of robbing from God. They could not imagine how they had ever robbed God. The very idea seemed preposterous. He showed how they had withheld their tithes and offerings from God. They probably had some very good reasons for not making their expected offerings to God. People usually find very believable reasons for failing to do their duty towards God. They had failed to bring their tithes into the congregation's warehouse, although they probably had had at one time good intentions to do so. In the end, they did not save

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their goods for themselves, they lost even greater blessings that God would have given them if they had been faithful in fulfilling their vows.

He spoke of their hard speeches against God. They had a form of godliness but they lacked a true, vital dedication to God and His ways. Although they might deny speaking against God, Malachi informs them that they have made light of God's commandments and ordinances. They have considered God's commandments to be of little importance in their lives. In fact, they have, by reason and deceit, tried to free themselves of His demands upon their lives. They might consider His commands to be applicable to people of another age or culture, but not to themselves. They might decide they did not need to be or to do differently than their neighbors. They would feel foolish to do some of these things that the world would never do.

They had a perverted sense of rightness. They not only did not follow God's commandments, but they spoke stoutly against those who did. They praised those who were wicked and criticized those who were righteous. Those who were evil were promoted in their minds, but the good were put down.

Malachi wrote of the majority of the Jews following this course. He also commended those who were willing to follow God's program. Although they were few compared to the others, they were an inspiration to Malachi. He saw them meeting together to encourage each other in their godly course. Their reward was greater than just the praise of Malachi. They were commended by God, Himself.

A refining was needed. He used the picture of the refiner's fire to speak of that needed refining. Fire will liquefy metals so the dross can be removed. No other means will be effective: God's judgment is a refiner's fire. His judgment of sin will cause a cleansing within the life of one of His people.

They were in need of a great refining. Like the Jews of Malachi's time, many Christians have developed many of the same defective attitudes. They have impurities that need to be removed. They need the refiner's fire to work in their Spiritual lives.

Many Christians display the same contrary attitudes and practices that the Jews of old had. Their behavior caused Malachi to speak against them. He warned them they needed to make some changes. Christians with the same attitudes also need to make similar changes in their lives.

When Christians hoard their resources, speak against God, the Church, and His people, and lose their right sense of values, they are in need of a great refining in their lives. Either they will be changed in the

fires of the refiner or they will be punished in the fires of Hell.

Do you need to be refined? The one who has been refined realizes his potential. The unrefined will suffer great loss.

M.C.Cook

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 1, 1936

DISOBEDIENCE

E. L. Beery

Hear, therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it, that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily as the Lord God of thy fathers has promised thee in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

Moses here is exhorting the children of Israel to hear God. Moses was a mouthpiece of God even from the time He spoke to Moses, out of the burning bush.

The word says, "And the Lord spake unto Moses," time and time again we hear these words and surely God must have seen something in Moses that met with His favor, something that he could rely on.

In our last quarter's Sunday School lessons we have the latter part of Moses life. In Deuteronomy Moses reviews the journeying of the children of Israel and calls attention to God's faithfulness, and His protection in every step of their journey. The same keeping and saving power he gives us through His word, and it is a great privilege to have, if we lay hold of the opportunity.

He also reminded them that their raiment was not old upon them, neither did their feet swell these forty years. Even if the children of Israel thought they were taken out into the wilderness to die, God in His mercy always provided a way, even if that way looked dark. Moses also shows the children of Israel the danger of prosperity. They were to be taken to a land of brooks of water, lands of wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olives and honey, everything that a person could want, also great cities which thou buildest not, and houses full of good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; then He says, "Thou shalt not forget the Lord thy God which brought thee out of the land of Egypt."

I believe that each and everyone of us in this generation have forgotten the protection and blessings that the Lord has given us, from the earliest existence of life up to this time. Who do we give credit for

our protection and prosperity? As we follow Moses, we find that time and again the children of Israel were disobedient, and caused Him much sorrow.

You remember when the children of Israel were thirsty, how God had told Moses to smite the rock once and water should come forth out of the rock. Moses disobeyed and because of this he was not allowed to spend the remaining days of his life in the promised land. Realizing this he asked God's blessing and divine support upon the children of Israel.

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms, and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee. (Deut. 33:27.)

This finds Moses ascending the mountain from which he never returned. This ends the life of a man chosen of God to be a leader the whole journey through, only to be left just outside in the end. I wonder if we as a people might be causing our Elders and those that have rule over us, as much sorrow and disappointments as the children of Israel did Moses?

Let us think on these things with the end of our journey in view.

NEWS ITEM

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Ridge Congregation will have Revival Meetings, March 22 through 31, with Bro. Jason Reed as our evangelist. We plan to close with a Lovefeast on Saturday, March 30, with services beginning at 11:00 A.M. We welcome any who can come to worship with us.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

Nature forms us

Sin deforms us

School informs us

Christ transforms us

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EDITORIAL POLICY

That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on the decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

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SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the writer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sister.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence, which is difficult to punctuate and in which the real meaning of the writer's thought may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations into paragraphs. Set these apart from the rest of the article by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words such as, "thot" for "thought", "2" for "two", "&" for "and", "etc." for "and so forth".

6. Write or type on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least a one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references. Please copy wording and punctuation just as it appears in the King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter, and verse. "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: "beleive" for "believe"; "recieve" for "receive"; "ore" for "or"; "&" for "and".

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your editor should have this item at least thirty days prior to the date of that issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material of general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as local Sunday School officers, District Meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items, "In Memoriam".

12. Read these, then write.

FIXED COMMUNION DATES

Third Sat. March - Quinter, KS
First Sat. April - Dallas Center, IA
Fourth Sat. April - West Fulton, OH
Last Sat. April - Grandview, MO
Last Sun. April - Bethel, PA
First Sat. May - Pleasant Home, CA
First Sun. May - Waynesboro, PA
Third Sat. May - Dayton, VA
Third Sun. May - Lititz, PA
Fourth Sun. May - Shrewsbury, PA
Sat. before First Sun. Aug. -
Broadwater Chapel, MD

Sat. before Fourth Sun. Aug. -
Swallow Falls, MD
First Sun. Oct. - Walnut Grove, MD
Third Sat. Oct. - Dayton, VA
Fourth Sat. Oct. - Englewood, OH
Last Sun. Oct. - Bethel, PA
First Sat. Nov. - Pleasant Home, CA
First Sun. Nov. - Shrewsbury, PA
Second Sun. Nov. - Lititz, PA

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GOSSIP, BOTH VERBAL AND BY MAIL

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters is contrary to Scripture. It should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interference with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about those matters.

B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is the talking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or anyone else.

E. Talking or circulating of what was done in council, either to members, who were not present, or to outsiders, is irregular and un-Christian and should not be indulged in.

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LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Located on Route 419, five miles east of Bethel, which is one mile south of Interstate 78, Exit 6. The church and school are located together.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MD

Located on Savage River Road in Garrett County, Maryland. From Cumberland, Maryland, travel west on National Freeway #48, 20 miles to Lower New Germany Road (Exit 24). Turn left or south under the Interstate three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn left on Westernport Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn right on Savage River Road. Go 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, WV area travel east on Interstate #68 to Lower New Germany Road (Exit 24). Turn right, go three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S. Route #50 take U.S. Rt. #220 north. Take Maryland Route #135 at McCoolle (just north of Keyser, WV, on Maryland side of bridge) go seven miles on Route #135 (passing through Westernport and past WESTVACO Paper Mill) to Savage River Road. Turn right on Savage River Road, go 12.5 miles to church on right.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Rt. 44, twenty four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn north off Rt. 44 onto Quinlan Avenue at west edge of Dallas Center. The church is located at 2323 Quinlan Avenue, 3/4 mile north on the west side of the road.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg Exit #245. Go to fourth stop light, Rt. 42, turn left to Dayton, 3.5 miles right on Rt. 257, two blocks.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Ohio Rt. 40 and Rt. 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt. 48, one block north of this junction.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road, one block north of County #130. Take U.S. 33 or Indiana #15 to Goshen. Turn west at police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., go one block. Turn left on West Clinton St. Go one mile to Green Rd., turn right and go one block. The church is located on the east side of the road.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1.5 miles south to 139th St. Turn west and go to second street, turn south one block.

HART, MICHIGAN

From Muskegon go north on Rt. 31 to Hart Exit. Go left from freeway about 1.5 miles to tee in road. Turn right and go approximately one half mile to church on left side of road.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the south on Route 501, turn right on Newport Road, which is about a mile north of Lititz. Coming from the north turn left on Newport Road. Go to second crossroads, turn right. The white church is on the right.

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Located between Routes 15 and 11. The town is bisected by Rt. 114 into east and west and by Rt. 641 into north and south. The church is located on West Keller St., (corner of Keller and Washington St.), four blocks west of Market St. or Rt. 114. Leaving the Pennsylvania Turnpike at the Carlisle Interchange, Rt. 11 will lead east to Rt. 114. Leaving the Turnpike at Gettysburg Interchange, Rt. 15 will lead west to Rt. 114.

Brightbill's House - located on U.S. Route 322, 2.5 miles east of Campbelltown, Pennsylvania in Lebanon County. The meeting house is a grey limestone building.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway #50, four miles west of McClave Junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colorado on U.S. #50, then one mile north.

MOUNTAINDALE, MARYLAND

Seven miles north of Frederick, in the little town of Mountaindale, Maryland, from the east go through the town to the west on the road from Lewistown to Yellow Springs, two miles from Lewistown and three miles from Yellow Springs. If traveling U.S. 15, this road crosses 15, a half mile west of Lewistown and six miles south of Thurmont.

PINE RIDGE, MISSISSIPPI

Located near Collins, Mississippi. From Collins, go east on US 84 three quarters of a mile to Salem School Road. Turn left and go five and one fourth miles to intersection, where there is a directional sign to the Church. Turn left and proceed one mile to the next directional sign. Turn right and go one half mile to the church house.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Church is located at 3960 Sharon Ave., Modesto, California. The church's telephone number is 209-524-8634.

Directions: from the south on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit to the right and stay on Briggsmore Ave. to Claus Road (approximately six miles). Turn left on Claus, one fourth mile to Sharon Avenue, left on Sharon. The church is on the left.

Coming from the north on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit, turn left and stay on Briggsmore and follow above directions.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Rt. 20 Alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Rt. 15 and U.S. Route 20 Alternate.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse. In Converse, turn south at stoplight and go three miles. Turn right on blacktop road and go five miles to Plevna. Or go west of Converse on Rt. 18 for five miles, turn left and go three miles south. The church is on west side of street near the square of Plevna.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

Coming from the west to Ridgeville on U.S. 50, turn right on Knobley Road. Follow this road to the Antioch Church of God, where you will turn left onto an unpaved road. Follow this road to where the road forks, keep the right hand road to the Ridge Church House.

Coming from the east on U.S. 50, turn left on Ridgeville and follow the above directions.

Coming through Cumberland, Maryland follow Route 220 south through Keyser, West Virginia to U.S. 50. Turn east on U.S. 50 and go to Ridgeville and follow the above directions.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

Fourteen miles south of York on Rt. 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Church address is: 2191 Swallow Falls Rd., Oakland, MD 21550. Take Maryland Rt. 219 North of Oakland 5.5 miles or South of I 68, 18 miles to Mayhew Inn Rd. West on Mayhew Inn Rd. to the stop sign (4.2 miles). Bear left onto the Oakland-Sang Run Rd. for

.3 mile to the Swallow Falls Rd. Turn right onto the Swallow Falls Rd. for .3 miles. The church will be on your left.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

About midway between Frederick, MD and Hanover, PA. One fourth mile east on Rt. 194, at an intersection three miles north of Taneytown, MD.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

Church is located in west side of town, on the corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Ave., go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, church house is one block.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, OH, located on U.S. Rt. 20 Alternate, 3.5 miles west of the junction of Ohio Rt. 108 and U.S. 20 Alternate.

WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

Located in Cherry Valley. Go north of Beaumont on Beaumont Ave., turn right on Brookside (marked with Highland Springs sign) go to Jonathan, turn left, go one block to Lincoln, turn right and go to church which is on left side of road.

MISSIONS

CLEARVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA -

Ward's Church is located in South-Central Pennsylvania about halfway between Everett on Rt. 30 and Piney Grove on Rt. 40, about six miles south of Clearville. From Everett take Rt. 26 to Clearville. At Clearville go straight south, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right. Go 1.5 miles, turn right at the fork. Ward's Church is five miles on left side of road. Services are held second, fourth and fifth Sundays, at 10:00 A.M.

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION, NEW MEXICO -

Located 23 miles southwest of Cuba, New Mexico. In Cuba, turn on State Highway 197. Follow Rt. 197 for 19 miles to a paved road leading to the left. A Mission sign marks this junction. Present personnel includes: David and Mildred Skiles; Paul and Sarah Skiles; Loren Carpenter; Jeff Birt; Philip and Kelly Lapp; Angela Hill and Crystal Strite. Visitors would be wise to notify the Mission in advance. Address: HCR 79, Box 8, Cuba, NM 87013; telephone: 505-731-2292. Please contact for further information.

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Newlywed couples may receive a year's subscription free if a request is forwarded to the Editor with their name and full address.

To those who anticipate moving - please report a change of address promptly to the Editor to prevent the papers being mis-carried.

Also, it will be appreciated if those who send in subscriptions will give the complete address and indicate whether they are new or renewal subscriptions.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXIV

FEBRUARY 15, 1996

NO. 4

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

AFFLICTION

Affliction is a stormy deep,
Where wave resounds to wave;
Though o'er our heads the billows roll,
We know the Lord can save.

When darkness and when sorrows rose,
And pressed on every side,
The Lord hath still sustained our steps
And still hath been our guide.

Perhaps before the morning dawn,
He will restore our peace;
For he who bade the tempest roar,
Can bid the tempest cease.

Here will we rest, here build our hopes—
Nor murmur at his rod;
He's more to us than all the world—
Our Health, our Life, our God.

-Cotton

NO VACUUM

A vacuum cleaner without suction is nearly useless. If it lacks suction, the machine will not pick up the dirt off the floor or out of the carpet. If it does not do this, there is no reason to expend the energy to push it over the floor. A blockage in the hose or some other part of the machine will prevent it from pulling up the dirt. Once the obstruction is removed, it will again do the work it is designed to do.

Automobiles have a vacuum system. If a vacuum hose is punctured or disconnected, the vacuum will be broken. The car will not run properly. It may not run at all. Often these problems are difficult to diagnose. A very competent mechanic is needed to figure out the problems caused by a faulty vacuum system.

It is impossible for a person to live in a vacuum. A human needs air to breathe in order to live. The earth's atmosphere was created to provide the precise mixture of ingredients that would be healthiest for humans. Although air pollution has harmed this mixture, it still is not out of the range of human usability. A vacuum is the absence of this needed air. Without this air, there would be no life.

Just as people can not live in a physical vacuum, neither can their Spiritual lives prosper in a vacuum. There is a need for Spiritual activity in the life of each Christian.

When God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt following the ten plagues, He did not tell them to just rest on the other side of the Red Sea. He had protected them until they had gotten to the Red Sea. He had delivered them from the danger of going back into bondage, by opening the Red Sea. He further protected them through the destruction of the pursuing Egyptians. They were not

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delivered to rest but to move toward the Promised Land. They were equipped by God to move on to their destination in a rather short time. They chose to lengthen that time through their lack of faith. They made several detours on the way, but eventually, in the next generation, accomplished their original goal. Along the way, they acquired the Law, which regulated their daily lives, often in very precise ways. This Law gave them boundaries to order their lives by. To have rested on the eastern banks of the Red Sea after their symbolic baptism, would have been a vacuum for the children of Israel. Instead God had a plan for them to follow. He wanted them to move toward the Promised Land.

There are many parallels between the journey of the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land and the Christian Life. Egypt was a land of darkness and bondage. It was necessary for God to provide the means of freeing them from their captivity. The sinner is a captive of the darkness and bondage of Satan, sin and self. His only hope of release is through the provision made by God. God provides the hope of escape through the vicarious atonement of His Son. The children of Israel could have done nothing on their own to affect their escape. It was God through His agents, Moses and Aaron, Who got them out. The sinner can do nothing to escape his predicament except to accept the Gift of God. Once the sinner has come through his "Red Sea", he is set to make his lifetime journey.

A Christian is not called to leisure. He is called to a journey and a goal. His destination is Heaven. His goal is to serve God in his most acceptable way. The journey may have serious obstacles along the way. There will certainly be temptations that would call the Christian from his desired course. A Christian who does not have temptations is not actively living his faith.

The Christian is saved to serve. He will serve God and his fellow man. Also, he will keep himself pure. The journey may be short or it may be long and arduous. There may be much opposition or little. A Christian's worst enemy may turn out to be himself. He wants the end rewards but does not feel the necessity of complying with God's requirements for obtaining those rewards.

The Children of Israel often murmured and complained along the way. There were many things that did not suit them. They even came perilously close to rebellion at times. Christians must watch that they do not follow that example. Eventually those who did not fall away along the way did enter the Promised Land.

There is a great need for men to escape the bondage of Egypt. They need to accept the provisions made for them by God. Once escaped from sin and Satan, they need to be on the journey toward

the Promised Land. It is not a time of ease and retirement. It is a time of service.

Where are you on your journey?

M.C.Cook

HEAVEN'S REMEDY

Our calendar devotes one day out of the year as Valentine's Day. It is a day, though greatly commercialized, that is devoted to the expression of love. Let us reflect for a moment on the love that is light years beyond the love that a fallen world talks and sings about. The poet has best expressed it when he wrote:

The Love of God, is greater far,
Than tongue or pen can ever tell.
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell.

This is a beautiful expression of what cannot be fully fathomed by even the best human mind. Only within the soul can the true believer begin to experience the love of God which is "Heaven's Remedy".

Ephesians 4:25 tells us that husbands are to love their wives "...even as Christ loved the church..." Husbands, that is to be one of the greatest goals and challenges of your lifetime. This is more than just a beautiful saying, it is a command. It is a command that if put into practice would close all the divorce courts in our nation and make marriage counseling unneeded. The best valentine that a husband can give to his wife is to love her as Christ loved the Church. Remember, that to love your wife as Christ loved the Church is very costly and is a continuing action. Flowers fade and candy is consumed but the love of God working in a marriage will accomplish what all other efforts will not be able to do.

From eternity past to eternity future, we find the love of God as the greatest force known to man. It was in the creation, in the garden when man lost his fellowship with God, on Mount Calvary when the sky blushed and turned black as the Saviour bore the curse of the law, but it still exists with undiminished power and fervor today. It will also abide throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.

Prison bars cannot shut out God's love. It is shed abroad into the darkest hearts of man like the warm rays of sunshine on a cold winter's morning. Romans 5:5. "Heaven's Remedy" has the greatest potential to empty our prisons at this low ebb of human history. The year 1994 had the infamous record of surpassing one million souls being incarcerated in our penal system.

The love of God cannot be likened to a box of chocolates or to

beautiful flowers. It reached its apex on Calvary when the universe held its breath as Jesus, dying on the Cross cried, "Father, forgive them..." That was the love of God at its greatest moment.

Fellow believer, is there someone or something in your life that you have not forgiven? Perhaps it is some old offense that cannot be forsaken. If so, avail yourself of the Balm of Gilead, "Heaven's Remedy," that the hurts of the past can finally be laid to rest.

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:" I John 3:1a.

Brother David Skiles

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Christians and Reincarnation

Popular Oriental religions are impacting many Christians' thinking on reincarnation. Some do not feel there is anything wrong with incorporating this thinking into the Christian faith. In reality, the amalgamating of reincarnation into Biblical Christianity is somewhat like talking about the godly devil. It is impossible!

Religious systems that promote reincarnation teach that man's life consists of good and bad actions which, at his death, result in a system of merits and demerits. These positives and negatives accumulate and determine what the status of the next life will be. It, in their thinking, may even determine whether you will come back as a god, man or a plant or lower animal. (Maybe even a bug!) They teach that there is a chain formed from one existence to another with the balance of merit and demerit earned in the previous life. So, you obtain "salvation" when the rebirth cycle is broken and you become absorbed in a nebulous existence sometimes termed "Nirvana."

The greatest dissimilarity between reincarnation and Biblical teaching exists in the idea of a recurring cycle of existence. The Bible says it is appointed for man to die and then comes the judgment. It pictures death as a separation of the soul from the world. When God's saint dies, he enters into an eternal estate secured for him by God's grace, through Jesus Christ. He does not enter into another higher status for another lifetime.

The idea of reincarnation does not allow for the reality of a personal God who enters into a holy relationship with His creation. In reality, it usually is conceived as a cognitive process within man himself, rather than as a personal God.

In addition, reincarnation makes man's spiritual advancement contingent upon his own personal mortal efforts. He is to make his merits outweigh his demerits. Contrast that with Christianity which shows that salvation can not be earned but is merited by the

substitutionary death of Jesus Christ and His resurrection.

Reincarnation holds that our spiritual, physical and moral conditions are determined by our former life. They are out of our control. This only leads to misery emotionally. It is devastating spiritually. Praise God we are not bound to our sins and that "if we confess our sins, Christ is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." "Though our sins be as scarlet, they can be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they can be white like wool."

Christianity does not build on a system of merits and demerits.

In addition, you cannot equate reincarnation with the doctrine of resurrection. This violates its meaning. Resurrection speaks of a time when our earthly bodies will be transformed and fitted for their eternal estate. Reincarnation advances a future life on earth with similar constraints and physical laws we have now. Resurrection demonstrates that there is no moral dualism between the spirit and matter. Reincarnation says that matter is essentially evil. Resurrection promises that our body will take on a new, incorruptible, glorified form. Reincarnation says a future life will be in a different body or even in a different order.

To try to adopt reincarnation as an answer to the mystery of life will only lead you to anguish and frustration. Without a personal God, you are alone and lost in this universe. You have the promise of the resurrection and thus you can have joy and eternal hope. "Death will be swallowed up in victory." You have everything to look forward to in your future in Christ.

Brother Len Wertz

TWO TYPES OF BLIND MEN

"One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, NOW I SEE." John 9:25.

In our nursing work, we have found that there are two types of blind people. The first, blind from birth, has no concept of sight. They have no understanding of depth, color, or the various expressions of our creation. They cannot understand the meaning of vision. They may long to see, but in reality they cannot covet what they never have had. Most people who are blind from birth are able to make do with their other senses. Even more, they are often able to excel. The other senses become more acute. They even seem to have a "sixth sense" that can detect impending danger.

We often have encountered the other type of blind person: the one who sometime in his past was able to see. Most of these, though not all, have a vivid memory of sight. They remember colors, certain

memorable scenes, and especially, the faces of their loved ones. Not only do they remember, but they long to have their sight back. Most of all, they realize that their former state was far preferable to what it is now.

Modern philosophy is a lot like the man born blind. The modern philosophers say that since they have never seen, there is no such thing as vision. Since there is no manifestation of God, there is no God. Yet, they stand accused by nature itself. As Romans 1:20 says, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." The modern existentialist movement, which grew out of the aftermath of World War II, is pessimism at its most dark. They say life is utter uselessness. There is no God. Man is only a higher animal. Yet there is so much evidence to the contrary. They are indeed without excuse.

Back in the late 1960's there arose what was known as the Jesus Movement. Young people at that time were challenging the morals and traditions of their parents. There were many who were earnestly searching for truth. Some found it. Many, in their search for truth, remind us of the blind man who once could see. He remembers what it was like and longs to be in that state again. It is as if the Holy Ghost gives some people a glimpse of heaven, leaving them hungry for more.

Paul, who had other ideas, was struck down on the road to Damascus. Some people say this was irresistible persuasion on the part of God. Paul said, "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision." (Acts 26:19) One dear old saint from years gone by said, as he sought the Lord, "God has something for me, and I will have it or I WILL DIE!" Oh, Lord, give us more people with that kind of vision!

When a blind man receives his sight, it no longer matters if he was born blind. The blind man in the scripture said, "One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, NOW I see." Do we see the importance of that statement? The fact that our eyes have been opened is the most important fact. When our understanding is opened and God can speak to us, we do like the blind man, we bask in the light. It is wonderful to see all there is to see. Our prayer is that God will heal more people of their blindness and that more people might be obedient to God and be saved. Jesus loved us so much that He gave His all that we could be reconciled to God. Has He opened your eyes?

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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THE UNPROFITABLE SERVANT

Part 2

"Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore." Matt. 19:27.

As we do what is commanded, do we think that thereby we can repay God for the gift of salvation, and all the blessings He showers upon us day by day?

"So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants; we have done that which was our duty to do." Luke 17:10.

Yet we are required to be faithful. Moreover it is required in stewards (servants), that a man be found faithful. I Cor. 4:2. See Heb. 3-6. Of two who were faithful also, see Numbers 12:7.

For an account of a good and faithful servant read the 24 chapter of Genesis.

Some were servants unwittingly. "For the Scripture said unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth." Rom. 1:17.

Another was Nebuchadnezzar. "And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was set with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will." Dan. 5:21.

"That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid." Isa. 44:28.

"The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his Lord." Matt. 10:24. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." John 13:16-17.

"And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Matt. 20:27-28. See also Mark 9:35, 10:43-44, Luke 22:24-27.

Whose servant are you? "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Rom. 6:16. Please read Rom. 6:12-13.

"Moreover by them (the judgments of the Lord) is thy servant

warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward." Psalm 19:11.

"For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more." I Cor. 9:19.

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake." II Cor. 4:5.

"For do I now persuade men or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." Gal. 1:10.

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." II Tim. 2:24-26.

The Queen of Sheba said to Solomon, "Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom." I Kings 10:8 and II Chron. 9:7. Surely we ought to be even happier to see the wisdom of Christ. See. Prov. 8:32-26.

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing." Matt. 24:45-46. Please read verses 42-51, also Luke 12:32-48.

So let us all strive to serve faithfully, that we, though unprofitable, may hear our Lord say, "Enter thou into the joys of thy Lord." Matt. 25:21-23. This is the prayer of your unworthy servant for us all.

God bless you all,
Brother William Carpenter

NO GREATER JOY

III John 4, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

The Scriptures are silent as to whether or not the writer of III John ever married. It is believed this was written by the Apostle John, who also is believed to have written I and II John, as well as the Gospel of John and the book of Revelation. The vast majority of Bible authorities and scholars are of the opinion that the "my children" mentioned in the book of III John were his converts.

Nevertheless, it certainly brings joy to a natural parent's heart to know that their children walk in truth. Children, of themselves, should be seen as a blessing from the Lord. I thank God for my three daughters. Our love for our children should not be dependent upon their actions. The Scriptures teach us that Christ loved us while we were yet sinners. We are assured in Romans 8:38-39, "For I am

persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." This same type of love that God has for us should be true of us as parents for our earthly children.

Our love for our children is no guarantee that they will not be estranged from us. While it is difficult for us to understand how any parent could cast their own child aside because of differences of opinion, it is also heartbreaking to hear of children who refuse to have anything to do with their parents. This may come about because the child is ashamed of the lifestyle they are pursuing that brings sorrow, in place of joy, into the parent's life. I am thankful that I have a loving relationship with all three of my daughters and I deeply appreciate the respect they have shown for me.

We believe that we bring joy to the heart of our Heavenly Father when we walk in the truth. Contrary to popular teaching, it is possible to depart from the faith, therefore removing ourselves from the family of God. It is true that in a natural family once a son, always a son (or daughter) is a reality. Even in the natural realm a son or daughter can be disinherited! Jesus Christ, when teaching of the new birth, informed us, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." We can not compare natural truths with Spiritual realities. However, we also believe there are those who are a part of the family of God who bring sorrow to the heart of the Father because of their refusal to walk in the truth.

The Apostles would never have gone against the commandment of Jesus Christ to "call no man Father" (the exception of natural or adopted parents being clearly understood in Scripture). Church historians refer to them as the founding fathers of the faith. We believe this is an acceptable title. It is within a similar context that John refers to those he has led to Christ as "my children."

In a somewhat similar sense, the Church has sometimes been referred to as "our mother." There are many who believe the reference by John to "the elect lady" in II John was a case in point. There should be no greater joy in the Church than to hear that her children walk in truth.

The problem comes when "walking in truth" is defined. All sorts of outlandish and heretical thoughts are presented as "truth" by different individuals and groups. On what is considered by most the cardinal truths of Scripture, we believe that those within the mainline of Christianity over the years are safe to follow. However, unfortunately, error has overcome both the popular Protestant movement and our

Anabaptist brothers and sisters. Things like the Scriptural prayer covering and modest dress are set aside as "nonessentials."

The greatest joy you can know is having your sins forgiven by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The first step in walking in the truth is, we believe, trine immersion baptism. When we enter the presence of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ may we hear the words, "I have no greater joy than to hear that (you have walked) in truth."

Brother James M. Hite
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THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

How we enjoy reading the column entitled "Sixty Years Ago"! We have found the writings of Brethren like L. W. Beery, J. A. Leckron and others to be full of insight. They are very spiritual and scriptural. These earlier Brethren had a real calling and vision. Maybe we should print some of the earlier articles, possibly some from 1923 to 1926. To understand these articles, one must come to an understanding of what our church was about in its earlier years.

These years began around 1923 with Elder B. E. Kesler's "Monitor Family". What did the "Monitor Family" stand for? It stood for reform in a drifting church! These Brethren and Sisters saw a lot happen in the church since the 1881 divide, and how fast the changes were moving! These Brethren of the "Monitor Family" thought the church should hold up a standard to the world, while many in the Church leadership thought the Church should serve the world. While Christian Love abounded for all, still differences in thoughts about the direction of the church arose.

By 1926, the standards of the church were slipping away fast. The 1911 dress decision advised a plain coat with standing collar for the Brethren, while Sister's garments were to be free from ornamentation. Plain bonnets and hoods were both recommended for the Sisters. By 1926, neckties and stylish hats were being worn, as well as fancy hair styles by some members. Emphasis was placed on youth camps, education, a paid ministry, and forms of entertainment that were previously held in question. The Monitor Family thought that all of this deviated from the teachings of the Apostles. Even though different congregations attempted to hold fast by queries and recommendations, their attempts failed. Being dissatisfied with these rapid changes, many were looking for a return to the old ways. B. E. Kesler became the spokesman for this group. This was the beginning of the "Monitor Family" which would later become the DUNKARD

BRETHREN CHURCH.

This group of faithful Brethren upheld the 1911 dress decision with minor change. They believed the Bible was the inspired Word of God (Authorized King James Version), in honesty, in simplicity and modesty in both dress and manners. They did not believe in the wearing of neckties, gold ornaments, rings, bracelets and other jewelry by either Brethren or Sisters or in keeping of worldly fashions. They believed that long hair should be worn up in a simple manner under the covering by the Sisters. Short hair should be worn by the Brethren.

How far have we come from those early thoughts? Where will we be in ten or twenty years should the Lord tarry? As we have seen in the past, one small change leads to another. That former Church is now a member of the World Council of Churches, ordains women into the ministry and has very few members who dress in a plain and modest way.

Do we really want to reap this kind of change? Or do we want to sow seeds of faith according to our aim, as it is found on the BIBLE MONITOR'S front page: "to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience."? Do we still want to be Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice? We believe we really do want to keep this Aim and Motto. We must keep to the old paths for the road is narrow and few find it. We should also remember that the road to destruction is wide and many are those who find it!

Faithful to thy post, oh, brother
Thy profession, hold it fast;
Thou must work and not another
Stand thou firm unto the last.
Be thy homes and houses taken,
Choose thou still the olden path;
Thou shalt never be forsaken
While the Gospel faith thou hast.

As we look to His Second Coming, may we all remain steadfast in His ways and faithful in His Word.

Two unworthy pilgrims trying to serve,
Bro. Ray and Sister Sandy Barnett
1341 Dayton-Xenia Road
Xenia, Ohio 45385

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 15, 1936

POWER

D. K. Marks

"And behold I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:49.) These are the words and the command that Jesus gave to His disciples, after his resurrection, before he ascended into heaven.

After Jesus left this world and ascended up into heaven the disciples obeyed this command and tarried in Jerusalem in prayer and supplication for ten days, then they received this great power that Jesus promised unto them. Bible readers all know the results of this power, especially the repentance and conversion of 3000 souls.

What helped the Holy Spirit to work so powerful? The disciples were all obedient to God's word, they were all assembled in one accord in prayer to God.

Let us consider the power of electricity, it is carried from the power house on wires to a large city where many motors and large machinery are put in motion to manufacture goods, and every house in the city that has the live wire has an abundance of light, but when the electric wire is disconnected or broken on which the electricity is carried the machinery does not move, the city is without light, but in darkness. Let us think of the mighty power of God in the time when God told Joshua to cross the Jordan river when the waters were overflowing their banks. God commanded Joshua what to do in order that he and Israel could cross the river on dry ground. Joshua and all the people obeyed the commands of God, they all passed over Jordan in safety. Later they came to the large, strong walled city of Jericho. God gave Joshua and all the people instructions how to proceed for seven days. The first day they were to compass the city and go around it once, this they were to do for six days, on the seventh day they were to go around the city seven times.

They obeyed God exactly as he commanded them, the walls fell down flat, the victory was won, the children of Israel rejoiced. Later Joshua sent his able bodied soldiers to take the small city of Ai, here the Israelites were killed and defeated. The power of God was cut off from Israel. Why? Simply because one Israelite had disobeyed the command of God, this was sin in the sight of God. God told Joshua to find the hidden sin and destroy it. Joshua obeyed, God's power returned to Israel, they were victorious and prosperous.

Let us look at the apostolic church again. When the number had increased to over 3,000 souls, all were obedient, the Holy Ghost was

the great power of the church. We don't read about any sin in the church until after Barnabas sold his land and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. Ananias and his wife decided to sell their possessions, but kept back a part and gave a part of the money to the apostles and told them they gave it all.

Peter filled with the power of the Holy Ghost saw the hidden sin of Ananias as soon as he came into their presence and said, "Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God." Ananias hearing these words fell down dead, and they buried him, afterwards his wife came into the presence of Peter, looking for her husband perhaps. Peter questioned her and she also lied to the Holy Ghost and she fell down dead so they buried her beside her husband.

The Holy Ghost working in Peter would not allow sin to linger in the church, the result was great fear fell upon the whole church, they were pure and holy. Multitudes of believers were added to the church and many miracles were performed.

When the apostle Paul was converted he was very much concerned that sin would be kept away from the churches he had been leading. He comes with the message to the Roman brethren and to us. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. (Rom. 6:12.)

What is sin? Paul answers, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey: whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness." Read Gal 5:19-21 and see what the sinful works of the flesh are and the awful doom. Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith: prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates. (Gal. 13:5.) "And he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nation." (Rev. 2:26.)

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CORRECTIONS

The address of Elder Ray Stuber is: 5200 Swamp Road, Felton, PA 17322.

The full address of Elder Dennis St. John is: 21397 County Road B-50, Bryan, OH 43506. Please write out "County Road" when sending mail, including that for the Trustee Board or the Bible Study Board, to Bro. Dennis.

NOTICE OF NEED

"The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth labourers into His harvest." Luke 10:2.

With some of the present staff at Torreon Navajo Mission planning to leave the field midyear, we ask you to pray that the Lord will provide the needed help that the work may continue in Navajoland. We are in need of teachers for the school as well as general help that goes with the work of sharing the Gospel and ministering to people in need.

If you feel led to serve Christ in Navajoland, please contact one of the following:

For information contact mission Superintendent:

Bro. David Skiles
Torreon Navajo Mission
HCR 79, Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013-9701

For an application contact Board Secretary,

James MeyerS
2641 205th St.
Dallas Center, IA 50063

"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Ps. 126:6.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

There will be another revival meeting starting March 8 through March 17. How much have we grown and how much closer to the Lord are we since the last revival? It seems as we look over the churches there are many who seem to be getting more like the world and desiring the things of the world instead of the ways of the Lord and the church.

As Bro. Dennis St. John from Pleasant Ridge, Ohio brings the Word of God to us, may our desire and prayer be to be more like our Savior and be obedient to our church.

Come praying for Bro. Dennis. Jesus is coming soon. Are we ready?

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1996

March 3 - "Thy Son Liveth"- John 4:43-54.

1. Why does a prophet not have honour in his own country?
2. What did believing Jesus' words have to do with the healing of the nobleman's son?

March 10 - "Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?" John 5:1-16.

1. Explain the healing abilities of the Bethesda Pool water.
2. Why did Jesus have the healed man break one of the Jew's laws concerning the Sabbath?

March 17 - Everlasting Life - Now! - John 5:17-29.

1. Explain Jesus calling Himself "The Son of Man".
2. What did Jesus mean by "The Resurrection of damnation"?

March 24 - The Resurrection - John 20:1-18.

1. Why was the stone taken away from the sepulcher?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said, "Touch me not, for I am not yet ascended to my Father"?

March 31 - The witness of the Father - John 5:30-47.

1. Who is the witness greater than John the Baptist?
2. Why should we search the Scriptures?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1996

March 3 - Religion - Micah 6:8, James 1:21-27, II John 6-11.

1. Explain the possible differences between religion and serving God.
2. Explain the connection between hearing and doing the Word.

March 10 - New Cloth - Matt. 9:16, Mark 2:21, Luke 5:36-39.

1. Contrast God's old and new kingdoms.
2. Salvation is not a piece of new cloth attached to an old garment. Explain.

March 17 - Laborers in Vineyard - Matt. 20:1-16.

1. For what wage had the laborers agreed to work?
2. What is the lesson for us in each laborer receiving the same pay?

March 24 - Unmerciful servant - Ps. 41:1-13, Matt. 5:7, 18:23-35.

1. Compare man's mercy with God's mercy.
2. Explain the connection of mercy and forgiveness.

March 31 - The Wise Steward - Matt. 24:42-51, 25:21, I Cor. 4:2-5,
Luke 12:35-48.

1. How is watchfulness a part of faithfulness?
2. Why is it important to act upon that which we know?

Paul Stump
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(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXIV

MARCH 1, 1996

NO. 5

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

PATIENCE

Run your race with patience,
For patience you must possess.
Faith helps you endure
Trials with joyfulness.

Submit your soul to God
While here on earth you live.
And when offenses come,
He'll help you to forgive.

Satan may try to get you
To turn away from God
When you're tried and tested,
While on this earth you trod.

Trust in God for patience
That you may be made whole
An entire, wanting only
Salvation, for your soul.

-Irene Stout

CONSEQUENCES?

There are many ideas of what is right or wrong. We each form our own opinion of right and wrong. We live our lives by that self-defined standard. It matters little what the basis of our opinion may be. We do not care what others may think of our opinion. We are going to stick to it. That is the privilege of our free moral agency.

We do have the ability to choose what we consider to be right and wrong. At the same time, we have to realize there are consequences that accompany every choice that we make. The consequences may be good or bad. They depend upon what we choose. We may choose the wrong standard of right. We may prosper by following that standard, but there will come a time of reckoning. At that reckoning we will have to face the consequences of our choices.

Too often, today, in our society, we try to minimize the consequences of bad choices. We try to lessen the seriousness of the offense. We do not want any one to feel bad because of his poor choices. We have tried to eliminate guilt. This may appeal to us; especially if we have done something wrong.

We do not enjoy guilt. It is not intended to be pleasurable. It is intended to be educational. It also should have a reformatory effect upon us. If guilty, we should desire to change the action that brought the guilt upon us. Too often we are more interested in avoiding the guilt than profiting from it. The humanistic view tries to seek a good feeling rather than right action or repentance. As long as we seek only our pleasure we will not prosper in our Spiritual lives.

We do not like to be bound by a set of standards. We would prefer to choose our own way. If left to our own choice we would choose the

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way that would bring us the least pain. Following a standard may involve some painful choices. Sometimes we need to choose the hard way.

We have somehow gotten the idea that we are upon this earth simply to have fun. Fun has become the desire of all. There are many kinds of amusements available to keep us from serious contemplation and service. Sports of all sorts are available either to participate in or to watch. Movies, theater, television, and many other forms of entertainment are ever beckoning to us today. Others spend time and money on collecting various items of interest from antiques to automobiles to trinkets to knic-knacs. Other hobbies are available to keep us entertained. Billions of dollars are spent seeking this amusement. While entertained, we are not able to meditate, pray, or serve.

As Christians we are fortunate to have a standard established for us. God has not left us without a standard. He knew, that without a standard, we would all choose our own way. We would make our own choices. He has left us with one choice. That choice is whether or not we will accept His standard for our lives. Many of the choices we face in life are answered in the Bible. If we desire to find His standard we have a source. When He has not given us a definite, word-for-word decree, He has given us principles that are sufficient to guide us in the right direction. Our first choice remains whether we will accept or reject His standard.

If we do not have the ability to make these choices, there was no reason for God to create us in His image. He might have created a race of robots, who would mechanically serve Him, instead. He chose, instead, to create us in His image. All would agree that God has the right of choice in all matters. As the Supreme being, He is not limited in His actions or attitudes. As those created in His image, we have also been given the ability to choose.

God sincerely desires that we will choose the right way, but it is not guaranteed that we will do so. He will certainly prompt us by His Spirit and His Word towards the right choice, but He will not compel us to make that choice. Therefore it is His will that none would be lost but that all would repent and choose to follow His standard.

God has preserved the Bible throughout the ages, so we could know His Will. The Bible has often been outlawed and misused, but it has been preserved for our Spiritual profit. It has survived many attempts to destroy and control it, so we could know God's standard for our lives.

Choices are ever before you. What guides your choices? Have you chosen to be governed by His standard or some other?

M.C. Cook

ANTIDOTE FOR AFFLICTION

"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:13-16.

This is the antidote for affliction. There is none better. We are often admonished on these pages concerning Matthew 18 and the step-by-step guide found there to settle disputes. Here in James 5 we find a step-by-step method to assuage any ailment that happens our way. Why is it that we are more inclined to call the doctor rather than the elders?

The first step calls for prayer on our part. Perhaps we need to familiarize ourselves more with prayer. We have often said that the new Bible versions took hold because the "Church" had so neglected the Bible that they had, namely the King James Version. They had neglected the reading of the Word for so long that they no longer recognized it. Likewise, if, we have neglected our prayer life, and if we care not if we please God, then we will run to the doctor before we do anything else. I believe this is not pleasing to Him. If we trust God, we will then go to Him with our needs.

In verse sixteen it tells us to confess our faults one to another. Many of us are not able to do this because walls have been built up over the years. We are not comfortable around each other. We cannot get so familiar that we can tell our faults because we are afraid they will become gossip and be spread around. Our duty is to love one another. Can it be said of us that we are brethren, because we have love one for another, and that it shows?

The founders of our Brotherhood followed the scriptures. The early church followed the scriptures. This is the day and age of adding and subtracting from God's Word. Let us be true to it. Who is afflicted that God cannot heal? Who is so sick that God cannot raise him up? If we do not see the miracle of healing in our midst, it is because of unbelief. Too many use the excuse that these are not the times of the Acts. God is still able. Do we believe it?

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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Newmanstown, PA 17073

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Self Love"

In the last twenty-five years, we have seen the concept of "self-love" and "self-esteem" coming on strong as a part of the evangelical Christian's thinking. It has just been a few short years ago that you could not find any material in the bookstore on the subject. Radio teachers never taught on the subject.

That has totally changed. These concepts are now part of the air that we, even as conservative Christians, breathe.

This all started in the early 1970's. Teachers began to allege that a major source of behavioral, relational, and emotional problems were caused by the lack of self-esteem. Thus, the solution to this problem was to develop a good self-image.

In terms like "self-love", "self-esteem" and "self-image," we see the idea of feeling good about ourselves. It goes so far in the secular world as to love one's self and project self to the center of our world. Personal fulfillment has become the god of the thinking man.

The idea of self love runs counter to the teaching of historic Christianity. In fact, we are warned about it in the Bible and by early Christian historians and writers. If this idea of self-esteem were really scriptural, wouldn't the church have discovered and embraced it 2000 years ago? Would the Holy Spirit have allowed the Church to be blinded to such a truth for all of these centuries if it were a proper concept?

Another cloud over the credibility of the self concept is its source in humanistic psychology. Carl Rogers was selected as the Humanist of the Year in 1964, Erich Fromm in 1966 and Abraham Maslow in 1967. These men had a greater impact on evangelical self-theory than any other source, actually including the Bible. Statements like "Man is indeed the measure of all things" was made by them. "Experience is the highest authority...neither the revelations of God or man can take precedence over direct experience." Of course we cannot accept these positions. They are contrary to the Bible's teaching.

The Bible teaches us to "Love our neighbor as ourselves." The word used here is, "AGAPE". This love emphasizes serving others. It is love in action, not directed inward. If the self-love idea were really Biblical, we would expect the Bible to abound with scriptures that might read like this: "It is commonly reported among you that there are those who do not love themselves." "I exhort them to love themselves." Would this be characteristic of normal Bible tone?

The Bible uses the word, "love" (philia) in II Timothy 3:1 and 2 to talk about self love. It says that in the last days, men will be lovers of

self. II Timothy 3 also goes on to list sins that flow from this problem. They all result in self-centeredness and pride.

What is the result of the megadose of self-esteem teaching we have been absorbing? Education has declined. Crime has increased. Anxiety and depression have multiplied. Narcissistic ideas proliferate.

God's design for Christian living is not built on the sand of self-concept. This only brings blight to society and the Church. The rock of agape love and projecting one's self into the lives and needs of others is sound and safe. The outward directed life, focused on God and others, will bring mental health, a sense of well being and a life with a healthy focus. Only then will we find the abundant life described in John 10:10.

Am I saying that we should have a bad self-concept? In the humanistic sense which we have discussed. Yes! In the idea of being satisfied with the way God created us and being positive about ourselves and the contributions we can make. No! Praise Him for His perfect creative ability in designing you to take part in His ministry. Work right where He has you.

Brother Len Wertz

TWO ROADS

It is always the intention of Christians to follow Jesus. We meet in God's house to worship and praise Him, to preach of His plan of salvation, to encourage all to seek Him and make Him their personal Saviour, to work with our brothers and sisters in spreading the Gospel; and lastly, to keep His ordinances as outlined in the Bible. We wish to walk with our hands in His, through times of trial and sorrows, through times of joy and happiness, sharing in everything until we make our home with Him in heaven.

How loving and great is our Saviour! We understand that He so freely and lovingly gives us salvation even though we could never do or say anything to merit His kindness for the Gift from Calvary. When we choose to follow Jesus, our Lord welcomes us into His holy family. He makes us His children. It becomes our desire to humbly serve and obey Him. We let Him use our vessels as beacons of His Light in this dark world. We are thankful for His shed blood on Calvary but feel so unworthy of such great love. We find happiness in being His children, yet feel pain as we realize how much we fail Him each day. We rejoice in His chastisement because we know He still loves us in spite of our shortcomings as found in Revelation 3:19. It is with Christian concern and alarm, when we see Satan making inroads within the Church.

There are some of us who come from the outside, from the more worldly churches, who have seen the corruption of Satan. He has placed tiny moths of deceit in the Church. Later it is found that they have completely eaten away God's Word and the ordinances of obedience. It is that same concern that caused alarm among the Brethren back in 1925 to 1927.

How clever Satan is to throw pebbles in our walk to cause us to stumble and fall. The evil one seldom puts boulders in our way for he knows we will recognize his intent and clearly steer away.

It is those tiny pebbles of deceit that the tempter uses in the Church today. Many sincere, God fearing people have succumbed to Satan's allure of preaching "a better more loving way" of the Gospel. God is indeed a loving God. We can never, in our earthly minds, ever conceptualize His love for us. His love is infinite. How great is His love to have sent us a Redeemer to make atonement for OUR sins so that someday we may live with Him in eternity.

The choice is always ours. We can follow our Saviour down the narrow road as described in Matthew 7:14 or we may choose the wider road of destruction. The narrow road our Lord tread to Calvary was not an easy one. It was a painful one both physically and spiritually. How the pain must have seared through His holy flesh as He endured the soldiers' scourgings and as the crown of thorns was pushed upon His head. His heart must have languished to know one of His beloved apostles would betray Him. He would be so cruelly mocked with words of ridicule and hate from God's chosen people—those He loved and would soon die for. Yet, He still chose that lonely road to Calvary because He was in holy submission to His Father's Will. What an example He set for us!

The narrow road has never been a popular one nor will it ever be. It can be a difficult walk, often filled with discouragement and has many hurdles to overcome. If we fix our eyes on Jesus and depend on Him COMPLETELY, He will guide us and walk with us through those difficult times.

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, we read of how God is called the Father of Jesus and the Father of all who make His Son the head of their souls and lives. We often read about His children—from the children of Israel to those who chose to follow Jesus after His Resurrection. We have all experienced His holy love for us as our Father. It is truly His example as a loving but firm Father that we earthly fathers follow to raise our children. As our own families have guidelines in which we live, our heavenly Father has given each blood-bought child of His a guideline to follow through His Holy Word. Our obedience to His ordinances, set forth in Scripture, is essential in

our daily walk with our Father. We expect our children to obey us in all matters knowing that someday that obedience may keep them from some harm. God also expects us to obey His ordinances to keep us from the harm of Satan's success.

We believe it was through the Holy Spirit's work through the early church fathers that the ordinances were set for His church. It was that intense, sincere desire to follow those ordinances, that God so lovingly and carefully set for all, that caused the Anabaptists to form a fellowship and separate from the Catholic Church.

Just as Satan caused Adam and Eve to fall in the Garden, so today he is still using many forms of deceit within the church, trying to lead many unsuspecting Christians down that wide road to destruction. As it is told in II Corinthians 11:14, Satan transforms himself into an angel of light. He mixes a little of God's Scripture into his pack of lies, making it appeal to our carnal natures, yet giving it a feel of godliness to ease our conscience. The same lie told in the Garden of Eden is still being told today. It is being told not only to unbelievers but to sincere, professing Christians as well. The world has always held onto Satan's enticements. Through similar enticements, well camouflaged in Christian terminology, he is still trying to worm his way into God's church. We are certain it was through the Holy Spirit's leading, after much prayer, after much diligence in studying the Scripture and through a strong desire to serve God in completeness; that our Anabaptist forefathers organized a doctrine based only on God's Word. We believe they knew that Satan would continue to attack the church as the years passed. They knew that by following the ordinances, set up in Scripture, and by depending wholly on God, that future generations would be able to successfully shield themselves from Satan's fiery darts. It is a legacy founded by our Fathers. It has been lovingly passed on to our forefathers, who have given us the keys to a life in Him. Will we be able to give our children and grandchildren those standards Jesus gave us or will we give them the watered down ways of the world?

So now we are back to the narrow and wide roads and choices. If you choose to follow the narrow road, but only follow God's and the church's ordinances because you have to, then you make those ordinances traditions of men instead of God. If you continually try to "enhance, improve or update" God's guidelines, you are only making traditions of men that will hinder your fellow servants of Christ. Such thoughts often make that wide road of destruction easier to behold. Such thoughts weaken our defenses in upholding the tenets of the Gospel as we try to share God's plan of salvation with the unsaved on that wide road. How often we have seen sincere, good Christians

with a desire to help others, fall into the tempter's hands and be led down that wide road of destruction, after being blinded by the "angel of light's" promises of a better, more loving way of salvation. Of course, if we choose the wide road to begin with, then we know the outcome. The real danger lies in our thoughts, our words and our actions and whose influence—God's or Satan's, that we choose as we walk down that narrow road.

Will we follow with faithful and submissive hearts longing for Jesus or will we follow it enslaved with Satan's deceit? The choice is ours to decide.

"These all died in faith...and confessed that they
were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Heb. 11:13.

Humbly in His Service,
Brother Ray and Sister Sandy Barnett
1341 Dayton-Xenia Road
Xenia, Ohio 45385

ORDER IN THE CHURCH AND DEAD FORMALITY

I Corinthians 9:14, "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."

I Corinthians 11:2, "Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you."

Galatians 3:23-26, "But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Why has order in the Church become a subject of disdain in a large segment of the earthly church? We believe the answer is threefold with other possible ingredients as well.

First of all, we must be aware that the vast majority of those within the earthly church would deny that they are in opposition to church order. What they claim to oppose is legalism and man made rules and regulations. Many church leaders are faithful in preaching the gospel today but they are very obscure about what it means to "live of the gospel" in many instances.

Some of the liberal church leaders are quick to label the Apostle Paul a legalist and woman hater. They see absolutely no need to "keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you." According to them only the actual words of Jesus are to be recognized for keeping the faith, and some do not even want to recognize these as actual words

of our Lord!

The more conservative element of the earthly church recognizes the whole Bible as the infallible Word of God and to be used as instruction. Within this group there is great confusion concerning the place of the Old Testament in relation to the New. Unfortunately, even many of those who have an Anabaptist background are confused on this point. They refuse to acknowledge that "we are no longer under a schoolmaster."

One of the problems concerning order in the church is a disrespect for church history. We must be aware that church history is not absolutely infallible. Many of the early church fathers were already influenced by error that had its seeds planted while the Apostles were still living. In the area of church order we believe the facts are well established.

Out of disrespect for church history comes a disrespect for those who preach and teach separation from the world. From church history we can learn what this actually meant to those in the first Century Church. To us, it is amazing how many of the things that allure us today were present already at that time. We are convinced they would have been appalled at the modern acceptance of worldly activities accepted by church members and even carried out within the meetinghouse's walls. The modern acceptance of participation in, either directly or as spectators, professional sports, films and plays along with other such worldly endeavors would have been anathema to first century Christians.

We believe there is at least one legitimate reason for being less than satisfied with order in the church. This is a disrespect for dead formality. We are of the conviction that when the early church lost many of the true doctrines and replaced them with error they also replaced a living faith with dead formality. Gone was the joy that was expressed within the pages of Holy Scripture. Worship was made a legalistic burden while the voluntary praise of the Saints was stilled. Long boring dissertations replaced vibrant preaching. Robed choirs replaced congregational singing for many centuries. Eventually musical instruments replaced the lusty singing of the Saints out of the bowels of their emotions. Robed church leaders and crosses in the meetinghouse replaced centralized worship of the Lord Jesus Christ and Holy Scripture. Many years later national flags added to the confusion.

Let us stand firm for order in the church but refuse dead formalism.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

DEAR FELLOW CHRISTIAN

Many lifestyles flourish in America today. Most folks claim Christianity as their religion. What is a Christian? What is it that determines whether or not one is a Christian? Do my works or my heritage or my church membership make me a Christian? Am I a Christian just because I desire to be one?

I do not believe we can become Christians by these methods. It takes faith in Jesus Christ, coupled with repentance and Godly living. During the time shown in the Book of Acts, souls were added daily to the Church, but today many folks continue to leave traditional Christianity. Why? What is the problem? Do we no longer have the answers to life's problems?

Yes! I do understand II Timothy chapter 3. However, do you, I and our children need to be a part of this? What about II Peter 3:9 and II Corinthians 12:9a? Does this still apply to us today? Is Jesus Christ and His grace sufficient during our weakness? Why do we not keep our children in the Church? I believe all too often we as parents expect the church officials and Sunday School teachers to do what we ought to be doing ourselves on a daily basis. Yes, we can find many measures whereby we justify ourselves but when we stand before an ALL knowing God what will my/our answers be? Why hide ourselves behind excuses now to suffer an eternal loss? Will I/we be able to hear my/our Saviour answer "Well done thou good and faithful servant"?

Children are an heritage of the LORD. Psalms 127:3. Do I/we spend the quality and quantity of time with my/our child/children teaching them to pray, to study the scriptures, to memorize Scriptures as I/we should? Our children are all that any of us can take along with us to Heaven. When time is exchanged for eternity, what good will it have done us to have engrossed ourselves in personal interests rather than our God-given responsibilities?

Children very easily look beyond our excuses and see the truth. We should be known by our fruits (Matt. 12:33 and 35-37). Let us not lament our past failings without changing the present and the future. There is no substitute for consistent Christian living.

So I hope and PRAY (yes, I pray) this letter will encourage YOU to take inventory of your life, in all honesty, as well as to encourage and challenge you to greater Spiritual heights in the coming year. Will you make it your goal to walk closer to God and farther from the pleasures of the world? Will you start today? The best time to begin is NOW!

In His love

Brother Harold Zimmerman

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 1, 1936

JUDGING AND MEASURING

E. W. Pratt

"Judge not that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge ye shall be judged and with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again; and why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye and considerest not the beam that is in thy own eye, or why sayest thou to thy brother let me pull out the mote that is in thy eye and behold there is a beam in thy own eye. Thou hypocrite first cast out the beam out of thy own eye then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye."

This scripture is the language of our Savior in His sermon on the mount in which He was more especially speaking to His disciples and He evidently referred to the same condition from three different angles.

First judging; second measuring; third motes and beams. What is it to judge? Webster says, to hear and determine a case, to consider and decide a case. To try to pass on or test evidence.

Pilate said to the Jews in John 18:31, "Take ye him and judge Him according to your law."

Or the prophets in Isa. 11:1-5, "He shall not judge the nations by the sight of his eyes nor by the hearing of his ears but with righteousness shall he judge them."

To censure rashly, to pass severe sentence.

This is evidently what Jesus was referring to when He said, "Judge not that ye be not judged for with what judgment ye judge ye shall be judged." And how often in line with the rash censure Jesus received from the priests and scribes when they said he casteth out demons by Beelzebub, the prince of demons.

So often we see a brother censured severely because of a misconstruction of his language he used in an illustration to bring out a glorious truth and some one looks at the illustration and not at the application is offended and instead of using Matt. 18 severely censures or judges and passes severe sentence. To such Jesus would say with what judgment ye judge ye shall be judged. Do we want to be judged that way?

Now for the second angle of our text. And with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again. Measurement, is to compare, and we must have an accurate standard, otherwise we are sure to make a false measurement. Paul says those who measure themselves by themselves are not wise—how much more are we unwise when we measure our brother by our own lives. There is only

one yardstick that is accurate and that is the word. Jesus said "My word shall judge you at the last day."

Have we been measuring our brother by our yardstick? Do we want to be measured by that yardstick?

Let us see how it works; some men brought an adulteress to Jesus one day saying, we know she is guilty and Moses in the law said she should be stoned. That was their measurement, but Jesus applied the same measurement to them, and said let him that is without sin cast the first stone, and none of them could stand the measurement.

And now for the third angle of our text, "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye and considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or why sayest thou to thy brother let me pull out the mote that is in thy eye and behold there is a beam in thine own eye. Thou hypocrite first cast out the beam out of thine own eye then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote from thy brother's eye.

Now, a mote is a very small atom, a grain of dust and can only be seen by one who has perfect vision. And a beam is a large timber which would obscure the vision and there is a possibility the beam in my eye would cast a shadow on any brother's eye and I might think he had a mote and there be no mote there.

But again it is possible we may be hunting motes and forget to cast out the beam that is in our eye like the men who brought the adulteress to Jesus—they saw a mote in her eye and were looking for one in Jesus eye but instead they found a beam in their own eyes.

Now let us apply the lesson to ourselves, how are we to act toward an offending brother? Jesus on the night of his betrayal said, "A new commandment I give unto you that ye love one another as I have loved you." How did Jesus love us—turn to Philipians 2:5-10. Here we are told He was kind to the unthankful and the evil. And in I Cor. 13, we are told love thinketh no evil.

Jesus gave us the best way to meet offenses in Matt. 18. Paul says if thy enemy hunger feed him and if he thirst give him to drink.

Now some will accuse me of laxity in discipline, but not so, for the church that Christ shed His own blood that He might present it to Himself without spot or wrinkle is very dear to me. But in my opinion the first object of discipline is to save the offender. In Matthew we have three steps all actuated by love before judgment is passed. And too, we must be sure we are not trying to pull out a mote while we have a beam in our own eye. It reminds me of a story I read: once a family had moved into a poor neighborhood, the streets and yards were all cluttered with refuse, the woman wanted to clean up the place and set a date and asked the neighbors to come but no one came. Finally she said I will clean up my own yard and behold the others saw the light and in a short time the refuse all disappeared.

So before we begin to judge or measure our brother let us examine ourselves, and before we attempt to pull out a mote from our brother's eye let us be sure there is no beam in our eye.

Let us clean our own door yard first.

OBITUARY

LEAH HEISEY

Leah Kaye Heisey was born July 2, 1975, in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. She was the fifth child of Wayne and Cheryl Buckingham of Hesperia, Michigan. She departed this life on January 19, 1996, at the University Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi at the age of 20 years 6 months 17 days. Sister Leah lived but seven weeks after she was diagnosed with acute leukemia. Less than nine months before, on May 6, 1995, she was united in marriage to Michael Heisey.

On July 9, 1989, Leah was baptized into the Old German Baptist Church. During her last days of illness she called for the Elders to be anointed with oil. Sister Leah expressed that she was ready to be with the Lord, and was fully resolved to submit to His will. Her last hours spent with her loving companion at her bedside were a testimony of her faith and of the light she radiated to others during her short lifetime.

Besides her loving companion and parents, she leaves to mourn her passing seven brothers and two sisters. Sister Rachel and her companion Tom Hess, Brother Daniel and companion Joyce, Sister Dyann, Brother Mark, Brother Alvin, Jordan, Jamin, Nathan and Nevin, besides uncles, aunts, many cousins, and a host of friends. One brother Aaron preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held January 23 with a full house at the Leaf River meeting house, by the home brethren and Elder Eldon Flory. Text, I Peter 1:23-24. All flesh is as grass.

Private services were conducted in the home by Jan Heisey. Grave side service by Elder Jerre Longenecker.

The body was gently laid to rest by members of the family, in the cemetery at the Leaf River meeting house to await the resurrection.

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Bro. Fred Johnson is 473 Dame Street, P.O. Box 87 Pettisville, OH 43553.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation is looking forward to their Revival

Meeting, March 10 through 17, 1996. The evangelist will be Bro. Ray Stuber of Felton, Pennsylvania.

Lovefeast will be held on March 16 with services at 2:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M.

All are welcome to come and enjoy this meeting with us.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Dallas Center Congregation is looking forward to a week's Revival Meeting, beginning Sunday, March 31, 1996, the Lord willing. Bro. Mark Andrews from the Grandview, Missouri Congregation will be our evangelist. Services during the week will begin each evening at 7:30 P.M. Lovefeast services on Saturday and Sunday, April 6 and 7, Easter week end, will begin at 10:45 A.M. on Saturday. We invite all who can to come and enjoy these services with us. May we pray for Bro. Mark. Pray that each of us will be built up and strengthened in His service. Please, pray as well that souls will be drawn into the fold before our Lord returns. May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Sister Arlene Flora, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation will be having Revival Meetings, April 14 through 21 with Bro. Leonard Wertz as evangelist. Come, pray and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Fern Wolfe, Cor.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank those who remembered us with cards, calls, visits and especially the prayers at the time of our individual surgeries. We appreciate your love and concern. May God bless each of you.

Bro. Warren and Sis. Luella Smith

THANK YOU

I want to thank all the Brothers and Sisters for their cards of sympathy sent to me at the recent death of my son, Jim. They were deeply appreciated. Also for all your prayers in my behalf. Thank you. May God bless you all.

Love in Christ,
Sister Valeria Sweitzer

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXIV

MARCH 15, 1996

NO. 6

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

A PRAYER FOR FAITH

Oh! Lord increase my faith this day

Please teach me in a Godly way

May my life show a good report

That to thee others would resort

For help and guidance I do seek

Teach me ever to be more meek

Take away all my pride and sin

Restore in me Thy love again

I look to thee for every need

Increase my faith I ask indeed!

Brother Harold Zimmerman
150 Endsloew Rd.
Marietta, PA 17547

PETER, CONFESSED, COMMENDED, CONFUSED, AND COMMANDED.

Within a short time Peter made a great, basic confession, received Jesus' praise, suffered a severe admonition, and given instructions for his future days. These four interconnected events are recorded in Matthew 16.

Only Peter, among the disciples, would have been so impulsive to say the things that he did. He could say Heavenly things as well as earthly things. He could exalt Jesus at one moment, but in the next moment, he could become a sore trial for Jesus.

Jesus and His disciples traveled through various areas of what we call the Holy Land. They had been in Jerusalem. They traveled along the Jordan River. They had been in Jericho. They had gone through Samaria. They had been in several towns in Galilee. Now, in Caesarea Philippi, He had a question for His disciples to answer. They had had the opportunity to be with the people in all these areas. He wondered what the people thought of Him. Who did they think He was? The disciples listed several prophets and other great heroes of the Faith as the opinions of the people concerning Jesus. They saw Him as an incarnation of one of the Old Testament prophets or even of John the Baptist. They realized that He was Someone special, but they could not quite grasp who He really was.

Now, Jesus asked the disciples to tell Him, not what the crowd thought, but what they believed about Him. This is always the most important question for each person to answer. It matters little how the world-at-large answers that question. The most important answer is

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the answer of each individual heart. Who is He to us, individually?

Peter had a ready answer. "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." He had made a great leap of faith to say that Jesus was the Son of God. He recognized Him as the long-awaited Messiah. He realized that Jesus was more than a teacher or a prophet. He knew He was God.

This answer gained a great commendation for Peter. Jesus praised Him for following the direction of the Holy Spirit in correctly identifying Him. Christianity would be based upon the faith of each who would acknowledge that Jesus was the Son of God, who came to bring a completed plan of salvation to men. Peter's expression of faith was fundamental to the establishment of the Church upon the Rock, Jesus Christ.

It was not long until Jesus, hoping the disciples were maturing, began to tell them of the events that would happen in the near future. He began to prepare them for the time of His betrayal, trial, crucifixion, burial and resurrection. They just could not grasp such events, since He was the Son of God. Peter was quick to express his disappointment with Jesus' account of these future events.

Like Peter, we would prefer that the good times would continue. We do not look forward to the times of suffering or hardship. Without the suffering, Jesus could not have completed the plan of salvation. His death and burial were as necessary as His birth and ministry. He came to do His Father's will. It would be hard enough to face the suffering without the disapproval of Peter.

Jesus very sharply rebuked Peter for trying to foil the task He must complete. He compared him to the arch-enemy of our souls. Peter on his human level was trying to do the same thing that Satan was trying to do on a Spiritual level. He was trying to prevent the completion of God's plan of salvation. Peter preferred the thinking of men rather than the thinking of God.

Jesus elaborated upon God's plan. He desired that men would choose the Spiritual life rather than the natural, human, fleshly way. Serving God means a new way of living. Man's desire should be the exaltation of Christ and God. This can be accomplished by striving for the fulfillment of God's will. It is His will that all would repent and be saved. It was never His will that men should be eternally lost. When men choose to follow the ways that seem right in their own sight, they fail God and doom themselves. They must look to God's way that will lead to eternal life. God has not hidden His will. It is the Bible, where will be found what He would have all to do. There is a plan for belief, action and sharing according to His will, that is not in

tune with the ways of the world.

Have you made Peter's confession? Have you found and followed His commands? If so, you are to be commended, not only by men, but by God. If not, you will be rebuked when you must stand before Him in judgment.

Lay the good Rock foundation and build upon it.

M.C.Cook

HUMAN JUSTIFICATION

"And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." Genesis 3:12.

Excuses. We hear them every day. We even give them every day. Adam blamed Eve for his sin. Eve blamed the serpent. All three were punished. They all had a part in the matter. We are all so quick to blame someone else or to justify our action somehow. Even when it comes to "thus saith the Lord", we are quick to justify ourselves.

For instance, instead of "thus saith the Lord" regarding the sister's headcovering, we say it is not necessary because "the hair is given for a covering", or just as often, because it is only found once in the scripture. If a thing is found five times, is it five times as important as something only found once? Some events in the life of Christ are only found in one of the Gospels, but we consider it very important. To many, the commandments of God are not necessarily important.

How about footwashing? We consider it a commandment of the Lord but most churches do not. They feel that it is all right to make substitutions for the act of footwashing: change a tire or help a brother in some way. "But, please, do not ask us to wash each other's feet."

We are instructed in scripture that our yea should be yea and our nay should be nay. Anything else and we could fall into condemnation. Unnecessary words speak ill of us. Excuses for why we do not do a scriptural practice also speaks ill of us. It may be simple enough to justify now, but what will you tell the Lord later on? The practices of the church have stood the test of time, just as Christ's Words have, and just as the Law of Moses has. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Even if the commandment sounds silly or looks odd in today's world, we should still be willing to do it. It is a testimony to God's grace when His children love, serve, and obey Him. So much was done for us when Jesus bled and died and rose again! We cannot afford to justify our actions with anything less than total obedience to Him.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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APATHY

The dictionary defines, "apathy," as the lack of feeling, the absence of emotion, or indifference.

Two women, I knew, who belonged to two different churches passed away without their churches having any knowledge of their passing.

I asked several members of one church, "Did you know Helen passed away." I gave the full name. They looked it up to determine membership. I was told, "Yes, she is a member." Then they thanked me for letting them know, as they did not want anyone deceased on the rolls. She had been in regular attendance until her age problems kept her away. While she was having all the usual problems of old age I asked if any one from her church ever contacted her. She said "No."

I attended that same church most of one summer looking for a friend. I reasoned that if I could find a friend there, I may also find the Lord there. I tried several times to contact some of the officials there in an attempt to find out their practices and finances. After several broken appointments I finally met with a retired minister. He claimed he did not know about their salaries or the cost to finance a missionary. I also asked if I could do volunteer work. He said I would have to check with the missionaries. I felt unwanted on my second visit so left promptly.

After the other woman's passing, I called her church to ask about her. I was told they had not seen her for a while but she is welcome to come back any time. I did not disclose her death.

The main reason I quit going to another church I had joined was because they would not agree to check on their missing members. I then joined another church with a similar experience. It was also about the same with a mission I worked with as a volunteer for about eight years. In all three places, I felt that I could have been dead without their knowledge unless some outsider disclosed it to them. This is what I call apathy.

Christ stated that the two greatest commandments are first to love the Lord God with all your heart, soul and mind. The second is likened to it by loving your neighbor as yourself. On these hang all the law.

How do we keep the first? Christ said I was naked and ye clothed me, hungry and you fed me. In prison and ye came unto me. In as much as ye have done it to the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me. I believe that's the way to keep the great commandment. By this, they shall know ye are my disciples if ye

have love one for another.

The three churches that I described do not have the basics, which seems to be common for churches today. They make excellent-sounding, audible prayers in public to be heard of men.

How many Churches today have the "basics." I am still looking for one in my vicinity. I have visited many churches. They seem to all have greeters. Those designated to stand at the entrance and try to make you feel welcome. Each meeting has a different one or two to do this. Then during the service they pause to make a friend. They shake strangers' hands saying something like, "God loves you, and so do I." To love someone is to be more than just a friend. I say a friend is one with whom you are in steady contact. Their problems become your problems. You can call them at 2:00 A.M. They are glad to hear from you. They are ready to help you with any problem you have. You can give a friend a signed blank check. They will use only what they need. Love is much more than that so the next day after that service of friends you wonder who are those friends I made yesterday. Whom can I call on in my time of need?

I am past eighty-one years of age. In my early years, if a person attended a Christian church, I thought he was a reputable person to do business with. He was a man of his word. I have lost well over one hundred thousand dollars due to the falsehoods of those with whom I have done business. All major losses, except one, have been to people who profess Christianity. They have been very vocal in their public prayers, statements and some actions showing their Christian belief. We both have gotten up from our knees with him leading in prayers, audibly asking God's blessing after we finished signing our agreement. The falsehoods by him, following soon after, caused me to lose thousands of dollars. I also gave up my small business due to our corrupt court. I have been there often enough to be convinced that judges are like the rest of us. Some of us are more honest than others. I definitely want to stay out of our courts.

Christ has said, "When you pray enter into your closet and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father in heaven in secret and He will answer openly." Most of those described were very vocal, to be heard of men. Christ said as a man thinketh in his heart so is he. Man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looketh at the heart. He also said, "It is appointed for man once to die but after that the judgement."

I cannot imagine how that will be, but, of course, I can not understand how so many people are put here on earth, practically all looking different. When I look at the heavenly bodies and consider

the laws that govern our universe, I can only stand in awe of how great a God we have. It is not for me to understand why so many bad things happen to what we call good people. As far as the heavens are from the earth so is His thoughts higher than our thoughts.

It takes a lot of faith to accept the fact that the reward of the Christian is out of this world. The Christian seems to have as many adversities on this earth as the non-believer. Of course my mind can not comprehend why there are so many different religions and races of people on the earth. I believe if we are to understand, God will reveal it when that time comes. This is one reason we are to accept Christ in child-like faith. It seems that most people born into a certain religion, stick with it. We need to pray for guidance and that His will be done.

One of those who is the least in God's kingdom,

Walter C. Myers
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PRAYER

As I was considering an article about prayer, I changed the title two or three times. I then decided it was too great a subject for one article.

First of all we are commanded to pray always. "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;" Luke 18:1. Please read 1-14 and also Luke 11:1-13.

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel." Eph. 6:18-19.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6.

"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:" Col. 4:2-3.

"Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thess. 5:17-18.

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and

peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;" I Tim. 2:1-3.

"I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." I Tim. 2:8.

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, he said, "When you pray," not "if you pray". Matt. 6:7 and Luke 11:2.

"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Luke 11:9. Please read again Luke 11:1-13.

"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is his delight." Prov. 15:8.

"He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer." Psa. 102:17.

So let us make our prayers a large part of our lives, knowing that God hears and answers prayer.

Can you think of a prayer that has been answered?

Only one?

If the Lord wills I will try to write more about prayer. God bless you all.

Brother William Carpenter

THE DANGER OF SHALLOW FAITH

Mark 4:11-12, "And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them."

II Peter 2:20-21, "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, then, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them."

At first glimpse and observation it would appear that the two verses taken from the book of Mark prove without a shadow of a doubt that there are some individuals predestined to never receive the gift of salvation. But, when taken within the context of the entire chapter, we find that this is not the case. These verses appear in between the parable of the sower and the explanation given by our Lord. Within the parable we find seed that fell by the wayside, some on stony

ground, and some among thorns. Last of all we read of seed that fell on good ground. In our Lord's explanation we find that the first three types of seeds represent those who have the word taken away by Satan, those who endure for a time but are then offended, and those who become unfruitful. Those who are the good seed are those who continue in the faith.

Those who represent the seed that fell by the wayside are those who do not allow the Holy Spirit to bring true conviction to their heart. Many children are carried to church as babes and attend church all their life with their godly parents until the age of adulthood but never experience a time when they personally believe the Gospel. There are those who sit in church services as visitors for years and never join the church. While joining a church is not a sure sign of true salvation, we believe that it is more important than expressed by popular religion.

Those who represent the seed that fell on stony ground are those who never acquire any spiritual depth. When affliction or persecution for the Word's sake appears they are offended and wither away. First of all, it is important to root ourselves in the Word of God. This is no guarantee that we will not suffer affliction. True Saints down through the ages have suffered and died for what they believed. This is taking place right now in some countries. It is not impossible that such a time may come to America. If we are not soundly rooted in the word of God through a born again experience by the shed blood of Jesus Christ we will fall from the faith at such a time.

We are also not guaranteed that there will not be persecution if we are faithful. In fact, the Bible suggests that this WILL be a part of our life. Persecution can take many forms. It may be equal to affliction or as simple as not being accepted by the crowd. Many individuals can not accept being peculiar people and set apart (which is what the word means) from the world. In order to attain acceptance from others they compromise their convictions and the teachings of Holy Scripture. Such individuals are offended when reminded of their obligation to their Lord and, rather than accept persecution, join in with the worldly pleasures. Many of these finally depart from the faith.

Those who represent the seed that fell among thorns are those who are overcome by the cares of this world, and deceitfulness of riches and the lusts of other things. They become unfruitful. Our love for the Lord Jesus Christ must be preeminent in our lives. When other desires become more important we are in danger of losing the love we have for our Lord. The work we do for Him will be hindered and we may eventually lose our relationship with Him.

There is a great danger in having a shallow faith. Let us all desire to be seed that fell on good ground and walk in the light of God's Holy Word.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 15, 1936

IS THY HEART RIGHT?

Ida M. Helm

"Is thine heart right?" (II Kings 10:15.) This was the question Jehu asked of Jehonadab when he was out to execute the commission God gave him to exterminate idol worship in Israel. "It is," was Jehonadab's answer. Then Jehu invited him to a seat in the chariot with him. Jehonadab gave Jehu his hand as a pledge that he was of one heart and mind with Jehu in the sifting of God's people and the two could go together into the fierce conflict with the devotees of Baal worship for they were of one heart and one mind to do the Lord's work. If we get on God's side, which is always the right side in the strife of truth with falsehood, all will be well with us no matter how powerful are the forces of evil.

The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. (Jer. 17:9.) When God created man his heart was innocent and pure but Satan planted the germ of sin in the heart of man and changed it to a thing so corrupt that it called forth this scorching record from the inspired writer, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Gen. 6:5.) There are many other references in the Bible to the evil condition of the human heart.

God is righteous, He is pure and holy. Man in his sinful, carnal state can not see God and live. It may be truly said of every person in their unregenerate state, "Thy heart is not right in the sight of God."

Israel as a nation had apostatized and was woefully in need of regeneration. They had slighted God's word and worshipped according to the desire and dictates of their own heart, and they had to reap the briars and thorns and the whirlwind of their own sowing. They are on the broad highway to apostasy that teaches for doctrine the commandments of men. Our religious teaching must be the truth as it is revealed in Christ Jesus, it must be God's word in purity and simplicity. The heart that is right with God is illuminated with the Holy Spirit, it reflects the light of God and people recognize the reflection.

It is folly to lean on any arm of flesh, or trust in one's own heart and intellect. God recognizes the treachery of the pretense of the heart that makes religion a cloak behind which he seeks to hide the adversary. A treacherous heart. Alas!

God gave Solomon a wise and understanding heart, a good thing for a king and his throne and it is a good thing for every person in the king's realm to have a wise heart, willing and able to discern between truth and falsehood, to distinguish between right and wrong in season and out of season; it requires spiritual discernment of the heart, it requires a priceless gift from God.

James 1:5 says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." God gave Solomon largeness of heart, a wise heart, great intellectual capacity and a strong will to obey Him in everything. It was Solomon's choice. The wise heart will wait God's time, knowing all will be well when God leads, and not do like king Saul, take things in his own hands. Saul offered sacrifice contrary to God's word and God said, "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

Wisdom is better than strength as worldly power or honor, yet how often man despise the wisdom that God gives. God searches out the evil heart and punishes it.

Obadiah tells us how Edom dwelling in his rocky strongholds was led by pride of heart to believe that it would be impossible to dislodge him from them in face of the prophecies predicting his overthrow, but God decreed that there should be a complete destruction of Edom and Edom went down before God. She reaped as she had sown.

In Matt. 5:8 Jesus says, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." The pure heart is free from all alloy of pride. To be pure in heart requires complete purity of the inmost thoughts and desires of the heart. A thing is pure when it contains no admixture of alloy, no inferior substance. As the heart thinketh so the mouth speaketh. If the inside is pure, illumined by the Holy Ghost it will be reflected on the outside; the Spirit will impart some of the blessedness to the character of the one that receives Him into his heart.

Love and benevolence are pure when they contain no admixture of lust and self seeking. Jesus' religion requires that people should be humble, lowly, meek like the Master they serve. The meek are persons of lowly and gentle demeanor. They speak evil of no one. They are never busy bodies in other men's matters, they do not serve lusts and worldly pleasures. They are ready and willing for every good work. They delight in the teaching of God's word. They are

good work. They delight in the teaching of God's word. They are satisfied with little of this world's goods rather than desire the riches of the many wicked.

Jesus says, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Matt. 11:28-29.) God's promise is the meek shall inherit the earth. They may have but an acre of ground and a cabin in this life, or perchance live in a tenement, but they are heirs of all future blessings, they are the only rightful heirs of the land and the riches of this present world, they are children of the King, and joint heirs with God's Son Jesus Christ. The wicked are usurpers and must be cast out.

Purity of heart begins with having the "heart sprinkled from an evil conscience," sprinkled with the cleansing, atoning blood of Christ Jesus. God alone can do the sprinkling. And the body washed with pure water. This is man's part, it takes place at baptism. To the people that said on Pentecost, "What shall we do?" Peter answered, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38.)

Baptism is the door into the church. Three thousand souls entered the door and were added to God's people on Pentecost. When the body is washed and the heart sprinkled, cleansed by the blood of Christ there is light in the heart wherewith to see God. External purification without inward purity of heart is not acceptable with God. We must scripturally know and see God in this life, we must worship in spirit and in truth if we would see Him and be like Him over there. Without holiness there is no power to please and see Jesus.

The people that crucify Jesus, whether they be Jews or Romans or of any other nationality shall look, one day, on Him whom they pierced, but they shall die the second death. Heb. 6:6 says people today and of all ages and climes may "Crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

Matt. 25:46 says the wicked "...shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." "Is thy heart right with God?"

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

Driven from Home

J. H. Moore

In the treatment of their children parents sometimes make mistakes that follow them to their graves. They do things that are inhuman, unchristian and sometimes cruel. They do not mean to make

mistakes of this sort, but they permit themselves to be influenced by their passions. Judgment, for the time, is dethroned; love feels outraged, and the unwise act is committed.

We have in mind a bright young woman. Her parents were devout and well-to-do members of an influential church. The young woman, after careful study and without any undue persuasion, decided to apply to the Brethren church for membership. Her father told her if she carried out her purpose, she would have to seek another shelter. On a day set for the purpose, and in the presence of a large assembly of sympathetic people, she was buried with Christ in the rite of holy baptism. The scene was both beautiful and impressive, for all the people knew the young lady to be a well-educated, pious and refined woman.

Later in the day she returned to her father's well-furnished and cozy residence only to find her parents ready to execute the unreasonable and unhuman threat they had made. The kind-hearted daughter was told that the home was hers no more; that she should take her few belongings and seek another roof, never to return until she gave up the religion that she had embraced.

It was a sad day for the young sister. She had no thought of surrendering the faith that she had publicly accepted in the forenoon. Taking what she could bear away, she went from the cozy room that had always been her own, leaving behind all that was near and dear in her parental home, and, in a sense, became a wanderer among those not of her own kindred in the flesh. But she found friends ready to help and cheer her, and soon had work for her hands and head.

Years came and went, but she remained the same earnest, dutiful, intelligent, pious and diligent Christian through all of her experience. There was a place for her in the Sunday School, and she filled it to the full measure. People learned to love her, they wept when they learned of her sad home experiences, but not an unkind word ever escaped her lips regarding her parents. She married, became the mistress of a pleasant home and the mother of happy children.

Time softened the hearts of her parents, and there came a day when they could stand it no longer. They saw their mistake and wept bitterly, but it was impossible to erase the sad past from their memories. They felt that they had not only made the mistake of their lives, but had actually driven the sunshine from their home. They could repent and ask pardon, and this they did. A letter was written, showing marks of the tears of regret. A more penitent letter could not have been sent to the faraway daughter, whose cup of joy was thereby made full to overflowing.

the family, and, should she be permitted to again return to the scenes of her childhood, will be shown the room from which she was barred when only a babe in Christ. The breach is closed, never more to be opened, but the painful past will cling to the memory of these parents until their dying day. They have been forgiven both on earth and in heaven, but there is nothing that can wipe the sad experience of ten years from memory's tablet.

In all this there is a moral for every parent. They may, at times, feel that a child is walking contrary to their wishes, but let them ever bear in mind that the driving of a son or daughter from under the roof of its parents is a fearful undertaking in the eyes of both God and man.

REPORT OF THE DUNKARD BRETHREN AFRICAN MISSION BOARD

The response to the African Call has been very encouraging.

Twenty-two precious souls born into the Family of God make up the beginning of the Dunkard Brethren Church in Africa. They were baptized in Lake Victoria early October 1995. Since then, four more have been added to the number. The challenge to nurture them is almost overwhelming to your Board. We are not ignorant of Satan's devices so we implore your earnest prayers in their behalf that we may act wisely and cautiously in the many decisions we are having to make, that the will of the Lord may be done.

The Lord willing, Brother Paul Stump and Brother Dale Jamison plan another visit to the Church in Uganda to see how they do, and assist in the further organization of the congregation(s). Please pray for them also.

The sponsoring of the orphans at Butambala was completed almost before the appeal came out in the Monitor. Forty-six orphans between the ages of six and fourteen are being sponsored. We have tried to limit one child to a sponsor so that more may be involved. More information about the child will be supplied to their sponsor as soon as it is available. May the zeal of each contributor to the work in Africa bring souls into the fold of God and glory to His name.

Brother Ray R. Reed, Secretary

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, FOURTH QUARTER 1995

Balance on hand 9-30-95	\$ 5,868.88
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Receipts

Donations	\$19,531.65
Orphan Sponsorship	1,440.00
Trustee Board	<u>7,000.00</u>

Total Receipts	\$27,971.65	<u>27,971.65</u>
		\$33,840.53
Disbursements		
Bibles	75.00	
Transportation	16,800.00 (Toyota Van \$11,340.00)	
Buildings	3,000.00 (Rent for 6 months)	
Bank Charges	<u>25.00</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$19,900.00	<u>19,900.00</u>
Fund Balance 12-31-95		\$13,940.53
Brother Mark Andrews, Treasurer		

NEWS ITEMS

QUINTER, KANSAS

The Quinter Congregation invites you to our Spring Lovefeast Meetings, March 15 through 17, 1996. Bro. Kevin Funk will be our evangelist. Please pray that each heart will be open to the moving of God's Spirit.

Sister Julie Litfin, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Lord willing the Fourth District Meeting will be held at Pleasant Home Congregation, April 5 through 7, 1996. Friday evening services will begin at 7:30 P.M. The Business session will be held at 10:00 A.M. Saturday. There will be Lovefeast on Saturday evening. There will be further services on Easter Sunday.

You are welcome to these meetings. Come to worship and fellowship.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Congregation will be hosting District Meeting, starting Friday evening April 12, 1996, at 7:00 P.M. The business meeting will be held Saturday at 9:00 A.M. Other services that day include preaching at 2:00 P.M. and Communion at 6:00 P.M. Services on Sunday, April 14, 1996, will be at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.

Come and worship with us!

Sister Deena Andrews, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1996

April 7 - That Prophet - John 6:1-14.

1. Why were the multitudes following Jesus?
2. What was the purpose of gathering up the fragments?

April 14 - The Work of God - John 6:15-29.

1. What is the "Meat which endureth unto everlasting life?"
2. What is "The work of God?"

April 21 - The Bread from Heaven - John 6:30-51.

1. Who can come to Jesus today?
2. Who is the living bread which came down from Heaven?

April 28 - The Spoken Word - John 6:52-71.

1. How can we eat the flesh and drink the blood of Jesus?
2. Why did many of Jesus' Disciples turn back?

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
FOR APRIL 1996**

April 7 - Offenses - Matt. 18:1-17, Luke 17:1-5, Rom. 16:17-19.

1. Explain repentance and forgiveness in regard to offenses.
2. How are we to be "simple concerning evil"?

April 14 - Sin - Gen. 4:16-17, Isa. 53:5-6, Matt. 12:31-33,
Luke 11:39-42, Luke 12:45-47, Rom. 6:1-23.

1. How does sin separate us from the presence of God?
2. How can we appear sinless to man and yet be full of sin?

April 21 - The Wicked Husbandman - Matt. 21:33-41, Mark 12:1-9,
Luke 20: 9-16.

1. Symbolically, whom does the householder represent?
2. Symbolically, whom does the son represent?

April 28 - The Resurrection Story - Matt. 16:21, 28:1-7, Mark 9:9,
16:6-10, Luke 24:11-18, John 2:19, 20:18-19.

1. Why was the stone rolled away from the sepulcher door?
2. Explain the angel's words, "Tell His disciples and Peter."

Paul Stump
10340 N. Diamond Mill
Union, OH 45322

(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXIV

APRIL 1, 1996

NO. 7

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

TRIUMPH

Lift your glad voices in triumph on high,
For Jesus hath risen, and men shall not die;
Vain were the terrors that gather'd around him,
And short the domination of death and the grave;
He burst from the fetters of darkness that bound him,
Resplendent in glory to live and to save:
Loud was the chorus of angels on high—
The Saviour hath risen, and men shall not die.

Glory to God, in full anthems of joy;
The being he gave us death can not destroy:
Sad were the life we may part with to-morrow,
If tears were our birthright, and death were our end;
But Jesus hath cheered the dark valley of sorrow,
And bade us, immortal, to heaven ascend:
Lift then your voices in triumph on high,
For Jesus hath risen, and men shall not die.

-Ware

THE GOSPEL

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country." Proverbs 25:25.

Have you ever been thirsty in the midst of a desert? In that situation a cup of cold water is most appreciated. It tastes even better than usual. You have a great desire for that water. The wise man compares that desire for cold water with a desire to hear good news from a distance. The desire for good news runs deep in our being.

The Good News has come from a far country. The Bible is that good news. The word, "gospel" means, "good news." The gospel has been sent from Heaven to earth for the benefit of all. Whether men accept or reject the gospel does not change the gospel. The gospel remains the same. Men may try to change or reinterpret it, but their efforts are futile. God's word remains the same for all times, places, cultures and peoples.

Paul writing, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, in Ephesians 2:1-10, re-counts for the Ephesian believers their response to the gospel when he presented it to them. He reminds them of what their past lives had been. He shows what benefit they had received of the gospel. Now they were alive, quickened. Formerly they had been under the dominion of Satan, the prince of the power of the air. They had been disobedient. Instead of following God they had followed Satan's direction. That course had left them Spiritually dead.

They had followed a contrasting course under the Holy Spirit's direction. Paul shows them the various elements of the gospel. The gospel is the proof of the love of God. The Good News proclaims that

THE BIBLE MONITOR

APRIL 1, 1996

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He has loved to the extent that He has given the greatest of all gifts.

God is often presented in a way that emphasizes His wrath and judgment. That is a true picture for He will judge all who refuse to accept His gift. The other side is the love He shows by making available to men the plan of salvation. His Grace, Love and Mercy have compelled Him to offer a way of escape from His own wrath.

His love caused Him to give the only gift that was able to appease His anger. A holy, righteous God can not stand the presence of sin. Men, since the fall in the Garden of Eden, have been sinful. Men, in general, and individually have no hope of appeasing God. Sinful man and a righteous God can not mix. God, Himself, has overcome this exclusive situation by providing the one remedy. He sent His only begotten Son to Earth to become the propitiation for the sins of all human beings. The only requirement placed upon the people of the Earth was that they accept that work so they might appropriate it for themselves.

God did this for the whole world, but He expects each individual to choose whether to accept it or not. Each person must make his own choice concerning God's offered gift. God does not deal with men as nations, tribes, families concerning their personal salvation. Men may devise artificial divisions and expect God to work with those divisions. The end of the Thirty Years War in 1648 was secured by the Treaty of Westphalia. That treaty divided the German principalities among the three major religious bodies, Catholic, Lutheran and Reformed, based upon the religious preference of the prince of that particular, geographic area. All citizens of that area were expected to profess that religious teaching. God is more interested in individuals than in general groups.

Jesus as the sinless, virgin-born Son of God was able to become the sacrifice for sinful men. Sinful men by accepting God's plan of salvation could reestablish the fellowship with God that had been broken. Those who would accept what God offered could have an eternal life, in the mansions that Jesus promised to them in Heaven.

God's plan of salvation, faith, repentance and baptism, was made available through His Grace. It was not deserved. It could not be earned. It was given through God's love. It was given because of man's sins, not because he was so good that he deserved it.

God did place a responsibility upon those who hear and accept the gospel. They are called to do the good works that would please Him. Along with the forgiveness of sins, believers are empowered to do good, instead of the habitual evil they have followed in the past. Christians are saved to serve.

The Good News has been presented. God has expended His Grace, Love and Mercy on your behalf. Have you accepted it? Have you lived as one who has clean escaped the clutches of Satan? The Good News is that Jesus paid the price for your sin. He has redeemed you.

M.C.Cook

PRAYER

How shall we pray?

There are many examples of men who prayed, and how they approached God.

Abraham stood before the Lord, and drew near. He prayed earnestly for any righteous ones who lived in the wicked city of Sodom. Gen. 12:22-32.

Jacob wrestled with God until he received the blessing. Gen. 32:24-30.

God talked to Moses mouth to mouth. Num. 12:7-8. But when the people had sinned he fell down before the Lord. "And I fell down before the Lord, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger. For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure, wherewith the Lord was wroth against you to destroy you. But the Lord hearkened unto me at that time also. Deut. 9:18-19.

David sat before the Lord. "Then went king David in, and sat before the Lord, and he said, Who am I, O Lord God? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord God; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And is this the manner of man, O Lord God?" I Sam. 7:18-19. Also I Chron. 17:16-17. David was speaking in awe and wonderment at the great promises which God had given to him.

Solomon went up to offer on the brazen altar before the tabernacle at Gibeon. "In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee." I Kings 3:5. "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" I Kings 3:9. See also II Chron. 1:7-12.

At the dedication of the temple it appears that Solomon at times stood before the Lord with his hands spread forth toward heaven, and at times kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

See I Kings 8:22, 54.

Hezekiah, when threatened by the hosts of Assyria, went into the house of the Lord. II Kings 19:1. When threatened with death he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the Lord. II Kings 20:1-2.

"Then the Levites...said, Stand up and bless the Lord your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise."Neh. 9:5.

"And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the Lord my God."Ezra 9:5.

"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, (See I Kings 8:30, 44, 48) he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."Dan. 6:10.

"And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:"Dan. 9:3.

"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."Matt. 6:6.

See Acts 9:3.

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."Eph. 3:14.

"I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up HOLY hands, without wrath and doubting."I Tim. 2:8.

"Pray without ceasing."I Thess. 5:17.

That you may all be blessed is the prayer of your unworthy servant.

Brother William Carpenter

CHRISTIAN COURTSHIP

by Neil Martin

As the people of God, how should the matter of courtship be conducted? It almost appears like the Bible is silent on the subject. Among the Jews, at least, there probably was no courtship. The parents decided who would marry whom. It almost appears like many times the couple hadn't even seen each other till the marriage day. But I think if we look closely, we can find counsel in the Word for courtship. There are ways God's people are supposed to act whether they are courting or not.

Our courtship days should be days we can look back on with good, pleasant memories; not regret, like we hear so many times. People

say, "If only I hadn't." Then it is too late to change what has been done. But can't we take some warnings so the rest of us don't have to say the same thing?

Courtship should be serious business; not taken on by the immature or young. The goal of courtship should be to find a godly life companion. It should never be just a time to have fun or to get some thrills. If we look at it lightheartedly, we are in for bitter reaping. Some people think they're entitled to a little fun, a little serving the flesh. But let's never forget that God will hold us responsible for our actions. Solomon writes in Ecc. 11:9-10, "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity." It says, "walk in the ways of thine heart." That is something we will do. Jesus said in Luke 6:45, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." So the most important thing is to have our hearts changed from evil to good through the blood of Christ before we consider this important step in life, or we may bring forth evil fruit. And remember, "For all these things God will bring us into judgment."

When we think of people dating, no doubt the sin we think of the most is the sin of fornication. Some people think some of us put too much emphasis on the sin of fornication. They say where there is a catalog of sins listed, other sins are listed equally with it. That is true. Any sin is terrible and can keep us out of heaven. I Cor. 6:9 says, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?" Yet down in the eighteenth verse Paul does seem to put a difference there. He says, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body: but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." It seems like he's saying that is the worst. Most other sins are of the mind. This one is against the body also. At any rate, we want to flee from it.

In Eph. 5:3, fornication is listed in a catalog of sins Paul says should not be once named among us. Then why do we hear of so much of it going on? Possibly it is because we have fallen into the trap of thinking, "as long as we don't commit the very act, we're innocent." But that is far from the truth. Jesus said in Matt. 5:28, "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." That doesn't take much action to be guilty does it? We should flee; chase even the first wrong thought

from our minds. Even though God's people would admit that lustful looks are wrong, because of what Jesus said, it is surprising what actions many think are acceptable.

It seems too often we get our standard of action from the world. "Just as long as we are not quite as bad as the world around us we are all right." Paul writes to the Romans in Romans 13:13, "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering, and wantonness, not in strife and envying." This word, chambering, is talking about illicit bedroom activity. Some other translations use the word, debauchery. The word, wantonness, has about the same meaning. Paul says, "Let us walk honestly (decently, becomingly) as in the day." Just because the world around us is no longer ashamed to act indecently, unbecomingly, in the day (public) does not mean it is acceptable behavior.

Then he goes on in verse 14, "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." The natural man wants to seek sensual pleasures, (make provision for the flesh) and all of us that are living, have our nature to contend with. Our appetites and desires must be controlled by our minds. We must take on the mind of Christ and yield our will (desires) to Him. Titus 2:11-12 says, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we must control the mind or heart, because our lives are an expression of what is inside us.

When we see courtship in the world, you see anything but an effort to control the natural desires. We see them pampered, encouraged. Why? Because that is what feels good—what the flesh desires. But as Christian people we don't want any part in that kind of conduct.

First, let us look at the matter of appearance. The world, or natural man, wants to dress, walk, act in such a way as to draw attention to themselves. They display the body to incite the passions of others. The Christian's goal should be the opposite. We should desire to cover the body and let the hidden man of the heart shine forth. It seems like women have more of a responsibility in this area than men, although it no doubt applies to man as well. It seems like it is woman's natural desire to draw attention to the body, and the man's natural desire to give it. Both, I believe are equally wrong. But I think that is why there seems to be more said in the Bible about woman's attire than about men's.

Jesus said in the the Sermon on the Mount, Matt. 5:28, "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Possibly one of the

biggest deceptions in the world today is the replacing of the word, lust, with the word, love. There is a world of difference between the two. Love is of God. It is a concern for others. Lust is of the devil. It is sin. It is the desire to have something that is not rightfully yours. Yet we see many people, including professing Christians, who are pampering their lust in the area of courtship, and ascribing it to love. How sad. What blindness!

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Do we pray that and then walk right into temptation and expect God to deliver us from evil? It is my belief that there should be no physical contact between dating couples.

To be continued

Selected by Sister Shirley Frick

From Jan/Feb 1995 The Pilgrim

FOOTPRINTS

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream;
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul!

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end and way,
But to act, that each to-morrow
Find us further than today.

Lives of true men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

Footprints which perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,

With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
#453 Brethren Hymnal

Early in my youth I learned this poem in the public schools. That was before prayer, Bible reading and wholesome literature were taken out back in the early 1960's. I cannot possibly add to the wise advice of Longfellow, but I have to wonder if the early influence of literature such as this was not instrumental in my conversion later on. I believe we cannot stress enough the effect of good things and good influences. By the same token we see what bad sights and bad people can do to our families.

We are all leaving an influence behind, maybe good or maybe bad. Would you want your children following in your footsteps? We should live each day so as to be a refreshment to the souls of others. Jesus told us that if we have done these things to the least of these, we have done it unto Him. Which way are YOUR footprints going?

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

THE UNIQUENESS OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

Acts 2:29-32, "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses."

Jesus Christ was not the first one to rise from the dead. The Old Testament records instances where individuals were raised back to life. He was, also, not the last to be brought back from the dead. The New Testament gives us the record of the apostles raising the dead back to life. There is no denying the fact that Christ's resurrection was unique for several reasons.

Except for Enoch and Elijah, every individual born either has or will be like David, "both dead and buried" (unless the body is destroyed by fire or some other means). We can all visit the grave of a loved one who has passed away and concur that their sepulchre (grave) is with us unto this day. But the soul is either in Heaven or Hell. The phrase

"that his soul was not left in hell," contains the word, "hades" in the Greek. Since this word can be translated "grave" the doctrine of soul sleep has emerged from such passages of Scripture. The same word is found in Luke 16:23 where we read, "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments,..." Resurrection is the rejoining of the soul, spirit and body. Both the saved and unsaved will experience this someday. The resurrection of Jesus Christ remains unique.

The raising of an individual from the dead leaves many questions that have no easy answer. Medical science has gained the technology to resuscitate an individual who has died from drowning, heart failure or some other natural cause. The question is sometimes raised if the soul actually left the body in such instances. We know that in such instances only a small amount of time is allowed before it is too late to resuscitate an individual. But in Scripture the allowed time had often passed and a true miracle took place. Trying to explain a miracle often leaves more questions than answers. But whether comparing Christ's resurrection to a medical resuscitation or a miracle it is still unique. The fact that His flesh did not see corruption after three days and three nights in the grave (without modern embalming) was itself unique.

Jesus Christ's resurrection was unique in the fact that it was the fulfillment of prophecy. The prophecy found in our opening verses is found in Psalm 16:10. Not only did the Scriptures foretell the resurrection of Christ but He prophesied it Himself.

Jesus Christ's resurrection was unique in the fact that He was the first one to be raised with a glorified body. Those who experienced resurrection prior to this returned to their body with all its physical limitations and sufferings. Even those who were given life after His resurrection did not receive a glorified body. Jesus Christ was the only one who did not have to experience death the second time. As stated earlier, the day is coming when all will experience a resurrection when death will have no hold on them anymore.

This brings us to the fact that Jesus Christ's resurrection was unique in the fact that it brought our salvation. For we read in I Corinthians 15:16-17, "For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." We are as guilty as most of not mentioning this usually except at this time of the year, when the world makes a mockery of the event with Easter bunnies and colored eggs. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin and Calvary settled it all. Yet the resurrection was necessary. Even so, repentance and being born again

guarantees our salvation but baptism completes it. Have you experienced this spiritual resurrection?

Brother James M. Hite

816 E. Birch St.

Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 1, 1936

TESTS OF FAITH

A G. Fahnestock

The age in which we are living has brought problems to us, such that our forefathers have not had. In problems pertaining to our physical being and in problems that pertain to operations of farms, factories, traffic, mails, governments, and so forth, they are fairly well solved through applying wisdom to past developments and experiences of the past and making use of the present opportunity, with the exception of the problem which pertains directly to the peace of humanity, the peace that came from heaven. Jesus said, "My peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth give I unto you..." Our American people (Christian nation) (?) have not taken heed to past experiences and developments which pertain to this great question of peace, and many, many churches have not availed themselves of the opportunity to receive and maintain the peace that brings satisfaction here on earth and through all eternity. The reason is a lack of faith in God.

Faith is tested and tried in various ways. 1st - Some people's faith is tested by the multitude of unbelievers, who mock and scoff. Jesus says, "If they say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My names sake rejoice and be exceedingly glad for great is your reward in heaven." Do we believe this? Noah, when building the ark, did not permit himself to disobey God and through it he saved himself and his family. Think of the many Christian professing parents, who do not only neglect the saving of their children but through unbelief lead them astray.

2nd - Faith is tried by the ties of nature. Sometimes we find parents and sometimes children who know that they are not doing what they ought to do but they don't want to hurt the feelings of others and mar their social relations. They evidently have no faith in what Jesus said, (Matt. 10:37-38) "He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not

worthy of me and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me and he that taketh not his cross and followeth after Me is not worthy of Me."

Abraham might have said like many say today, no, I will not offer my son Isaac, such an act would wound the heart of my wife and possibly killed her and furthermore what would others say.

Faith tested by human reasoning - Jesus said on one occasion, "It is easier for a camel to go through the needle's eye than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Some through human reasoning say that the needle's eye is the small opening in the wall of Jerusalem. The disciples did not think it as such; I am sure. If they had, they would not have said, "Who then can be saved?"

Jesus must not have had the small opening in the wall in mind according to His reply. He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God," implying that it was impossible for man to put a camel through the needle's eye. (Luke 18:25-27.)

Again, (Matt. 17:20) "if ye have faith like a grain of mustard seed ye shall say to the mountain: be thou removed hence and it shall obey you."

Many people and even ministers, through human reasoning say that this does not mean a mountain of earth but it means troubles we may encounter. A very popular minister has so explained it to me, and when he got through explaining I asked him, if a mountain means trouble what does the sycamine tree mean. Jesus says (Luke 17:9) "If ye had faith like a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say to the sycamine tree, be thou plucked up from the roots and be thou planted in the sea and it shall obey you."

Reader, beware lest the devil deceive you through human reasoning. The man and woman that depends upon their own understanding and do not have faith in God, very well can say, so far as I can see, sprinkling or pouring are just as good as immersion for baptism, and feet-washing is not necessary, and many other things that we are commanded to do. James 2:18 says, "I will shew thee my faith by my works." Many people today say they believe the gospel but by their works they prove their lack of faith in God.

Faith tested by depending on human ingenuity and strength. God knew that humanity has this weakness. Gideon's army the Lord reduced from 32,000 to 300, so that they may learn to depend on God and obey Him; that their faith and confidence in God may be increased. (Judges 7.) Many a problem that we are trying to solve today, is not ours to solve but to conquer through faith in God.

Jesus told us how to conquer our enemies and to gain our brother.

How many Christian professing people follow His instructions, such as we find in Matt. 18, and many more, or do we use human ingenuity, proving that we do not have faith in Jesus Christ. No wonder Jude admonishes that we shall earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints.

Jesus while here, looking down through the ages said, "When the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on earth?"(Luke 18:8.)

Reader, will He find it in you?

ANY ROOM

Have you any room for Jesus?
Have you any more room for Him?
He'll make your life victorious,
Pure, clean, and free from all of sin.
He knocks right now at your heart's door
Pleading to be invited in.
Oh! hasten friend, He's there for sure.
What could you loose? What could you gain?
Think of heaven with no more pain!
Open your door, bid Him come in.

Brother Harold B. Zimmerman
150 Endslow Rd.
Marietta, PA 17547

OBITUARY

ORVIS SMITH

Bro. Orvis Alvin Smith was born January 15, 1932, to Roland Wallace and Aurelia Juanita (Root) Smith in Bloom, Kansas. He was born three months after his father had passed away. Orvis went home to be with his Lord in the early morning hours of February 7, 1996, at St. Mary Corwin Hospital in Pueblo, Colorado. He was 64 years of age.

He attended McClave Schools.

On September 14, 1952, he was united in marriage to Helen Lucille Lockhart in Las Animas at the First Baptist Church. Orvis was in the Navy and they made their home first in San Diego, California, then in Kingsville, Texas, where their first child, Gordon, was born. They remained in Kingsville until June, 1954, when he was honorably discharge from the navy at the rank of petty officer 3rd class. After this, they made their home in Las Animas, Colorado, where their other five children, James, Kenneth, Donald, Jeanine and Melody were born.

Orvis was preceded in death by his father, Roland, a brother, Roland Jr., step-father, Emery Wertz and an infant grandson, Mathew Medina. He is survived by his wife of forty-two years, Helen of the family home, four sons, and their wives, Gordon and Crisanta, James and Hea Young all of Riverside, California, Kenneth and Sung Sil of Westminster, Colorado, Donald and Lynette of Fontana, California, two daughters and their husbands, Jeanine and Larry Medina of Englewood, Colorado, Melody and Jake White of Aurora, Colorado, by thirteen grandchildren, Pia, Helena, Jason, Abraham, Jennifer, Benjamin, Jacob, Janelle, Nickolas, Samuel, Nicole, Danielle, and Ashley. And by mother Aurelia Wertz of McClave, Colorado, by brothers and their wives Warren and Luella Smith, Lee and Diane Wertz, McClave, Colorado, by sisters and husbands, Dorothy and Don Wiens of Lakewood, Colorado and Juanita and Oty Reed of McClave, Colorado. Many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins as well as many friends also survive.

Orvis will always be remembered by family and friends for his sense of humor, his positive attitude, his strength in enduring adversity, his example of faith expressed and lived.

Funeral services were held February 10 at the Dunkard Brethren Church in McClave with Elder Herman Jamison and Brother Wayne Burgess officiating. Burial was at the McClave cemetery.

GOD'S FLOWER GARDEN

It's hard to lose the ones we love,
To see them pass away,
The sweetest and kindest gone,
While others are left to stay.

But if we had a garden,
With roses fair and bright,
We'd often pick the loveliest
And think it to be right.

And so it is with Jesus
In His earthly garden here,
He often picks the fairest flowers,
The ones we love so dear.

The flowers that are picked by Him
Will never fade away.

We know they'll live forever and
We'll see them some sweet day.

We wish to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and gifts.
Sister Helen Smith and family

NEWS ITEMS**1996 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

June 8-12, 1996

1996 General Conference will be held June 8 through 12 at Roxbury Holiness Camp Grounds.

Directions to Roxbury Holiness Camp Grounds, located 1/2 mile south of Roxbury, Pennsylvania on Route 997.

Those traveling on Pennsylvania turnpike (I-76) exit number 15, take 997 south to camp grounds.

Those traveling Interstate 81 North or South exit on Scotland Exit, take 997 north to camp grounds.

Those traveling on train or plane go to Harrisburg. Take Greyhound bus service to Shippensburg, Pennsylvania and call camp grounds for transportation.

There is plenty of room for campers and trailers.

Please bring sheets and pillow cases.

When making reservations please state: Date of arrival, approximate time of arrival, number in party, approximate time of departure.

Camp grounds telephone number is (717)532-2208.

Please send reservations to:

Bro. Paul Noecker, Jr. or
410 Black Horse Road
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
717-739-2209

Bro. Verling Wolfe
Rt. 1 Box 1483 B
Bethel, PA 19507
717-933-4246

NOTICE

All Board reports and any queries for General Conference need to be sent to me by April 25, 1996.

Brother Dennis St. John
General Conference Writing Clerk

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Waynesboro Congregation plans Lovefeast services on Sunday, May 5, 1996. We welcome all to come and worship with us.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

WANTED: E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Do you have Internet e-mail? If so and you would like to use it to communicate with members and friends of the church, please send me a message at Shaffer99@aol.com. I will compile an address list and send it to you.

Brother Dean Shaffer

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXIV

APRIL 15, 1996

NO. 8

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HOW MUCH WE OWE

When we stand before the throne,
Dress'd in beauty not our own,
When we see thee as thou art,
Love thee with unsinning heart—
Then, Lord, shall we fully know—
Not till then—how much we owe.

When the praise of heav'n we hear,
Loud as thunder to the ear,
Loud as many waters' noise,
Sweet as harps' melodious voice,
Then, Lord, shall we fully know—
Not till then—how much we owe.

Even on earth, as through a glass,
Darkly, let thy glory pass;
Make forgiveness feel so sweet,
Make thy Spirit's help so meet;
Even on earth, Lord, make us know
Something of how much we owe.

-Selected

PURE RELIGION

John, in his Second Epistle, defines James 1:27. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

John was not shy about sharing what he had learned by being able to see, hear and touch Jesus during His earthly ministry. He continued to minister, as the Apostle of love, to believers throughout his long life.

The Second Epistle is addressed to "the elect lady and her children." This could mean that he was writing to a particular Sister to advise her about the Christian life. He may have been writing to a congregation, using "woman" and "children" as terms of endearment to address them symbolically. Whomever the letter was originally written to is not of great importance. It was written for the benefit of all Christians who read it.

Writing instruction and advice to younger Christians was one of the ways John could show his love for them. In this second letter he only alluded to the charity aspects of love. He promoted love that would help people, who had serious needs.

Love is not just an emotion. It is a serious commitment. Love is better shown than expressed. All the sweet, romantic professions of love are worth little if the speaker is not prompted to serve the one to whom they are spoken or written.

The care of widows and orphans is a necessary expression of love. Christians should be willing to express their love, concretely, to those

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often forgotten by the community.

Not only is love expressed in good deeds, but in following the truth. That is why John tends to write his epistles in very clear, sharp terms. The defense and doing of the truth is an issue John sees in black or white. James speaks of being unspotted by the world. John speaks of doing the truth. Doing the truth will forge a separation between a Christian and the world.

John was willing to commend this "lady" for her present walk in the truth. It is always encouraging to see good order among believers. When believers walk in the truth they are setting a good example before their children and unbelievers. If Christians do not walk in the truth, how do they differ from the world they live in? The world holds Christians to a higher standard of conduct than fellow Christians will. The world may ridicule the righteousness of Christians, but if it is missing it will be noticed. The world expects Christians to be different. If Christians are not, they will be called, "hypocrites".

Unfortunately, many Christians do not exhibit righteous living to the surrounding, dying world. Some believe that their choice to be a Christian is the only effort they need to make. Their one-time choice is their sole experience in Christianity. Obviously, John valued a continued dedication to the truth as a necessary part of the Christian experience. There are many who, wishing to avoid legalism and worksism, have been hesitant to live a separated Christian life. They have chosen to identify with the world's view of life rather than give substance to their professions. John defines love as translating belief into action. Walking after God's commandments is a part of demonstrating love. Disobedience is not a sign of love, whether in a family or Christianity.

John is concerned that believers have a correct view of Jesus. Those who do not acknowledge Him as the Son of God identify themselves with the antichrist. Jesus came from Heaven to bring salvation to men. If they do not receive Him as the Lamb of God, they are making themselves the enemies of God. All have the responsibility to make this choice in their lives.

The teaching concerning Jesus is important. Also important is what He taught. He brought the word of truth and Spirit to individuals, so they could be saved and follow God. He called human beings to follow Him. Those who do not accept the fact of His identity and His doctrine can not have God within their lives. Without the truth, the Holy Spirit can not abide within a person. With the truth and the Spirit, a person can be the abiding place of God.

John was concerned about the harmful effect of those who

preached an untrue doctrine. He warned that they should not only not be listened to, but not even encouraged in their misbelief.

Do you have pure religion? Have you made the choices necessary to have the Father and the Son dwell within? Are you walking in the truth, doing His commandments?

M.C.Cook

GREETINGS FROM UGANDA

We are writing this article as we are waiting in the Entebbe Airport on our two hour delayed flight to Brussels. Then it will be on to Atlanta from where Bro. Dale flies to Miami and Bro. Paul to Dayton. Checking our schedule, we will be up approximately fifty hours until we will get to bed again. Hopefully we will be able to sleep in flight. (We did.)

We left Atlanta, Georgia on March 4, arriving in Entebbe the following evening at 9:35 P.M. We were met and welcomed by four Brethren. We were driven to Kampala, getting to bed about 1:30 A.M. Our first night was short in flight and our second night was short in bed. We were welcomed into Bro. Godfrey's home. We appreciated their very kind hospitality.

Wednesday morning, we visited several homes. We also found one of the church members, Bro. Stephen Sekandi in the hospital. We pray for his speedy recovery.

We visited the St. Barnabas Christian School and met the forty-two sponsored children there. Some of them came into the Administrative Office and sang some songs for us. What a precious experience to hear them sing so beautifully about Jesus and praising God!

As we visited several guardian homes (where the sponsored children stay), tears trickled down our cheeks as we saw the desperate living conditions of these people, compared to our fine modern conveniences at home. While visiting one home, we had a terrible hard rain storm with a lot of wind. This sure made a terrible noise on a loose tin roof. Many trees were blown over and some homes were destroyed. It really does not take long to clean up a demolished home, as all it consists of is gathering up several pieces of tin and a few wheelbarrow loads of mud and sticks. We visited a home after the rain storm and found ourselves in a very muddy room, as there was no tin on the roof.

Thursday morning after breakfast, we went to the Embassy and registration building to take care of some necessary paper work. We then went onto Kakumiro, about 120 miles away. When we arrived at

9:00 P.M. the Van was immediately surrounded by children. After supper the men carried in mattresses and bedding. We slept on the floor in the school building. We had a good night's rest as we were in a higher elevation and there was a welcomed cool breeze.

The next morning the children were there waiting for us and began singing for us for the morning devotions.

We visited eight homes in the "brush" and the people received us gladly. One of the homes we visited had a child, sick with malaria. They did not have enough shillings for medication, but were so thrilled to have white missionaries in their home that they presented us with gifts of six eggs, five avocados, two pineapples, and a live chicken. The chicken's legs were tied together so we each held the chicken a while and it rode the whole way to Kampala with us. When we left, they had some shillings for medication.

Another home also presented us with a live chicken. They are very poor people, living off the land, but they are willing to share what they have.

About 5:00 PM, we gathered for instructions for baptism. We then walked about one mile through the jungle to the water where thirty-two members were baptized. As we started baptizing, the children began singing "born again." What a melodious harmony ringing through the jungle!

The following morning we started our journey back to Kampala over rough, dirt roads, enjoying along with the bumps, the beautiful jungle countryside and luscious growth of vegetation.

Sunday morning approximately seventy (mostly children) gathered for service at Natatee. We felt the need for help in the ministry, so immediately following services, we installed Bro. Peter Kisembo in the ministry to assist Bro. Godfrey. We then proceeded to Lake Victoria where six members were baptized. The members in Uganda now total sixty in number.

On Monday, we went to St. Barnabas Christian School and took the sponsored children to a park by Lake Victoria where they did some hiking, sang songs and had a light picnic lunch. The remaining time was spent visiting and making the necessary preparations for our return home.

We thank you for your prayers on our behalf and our Heavenly Father for His protection and care for us.

Please continue to pray for the church in Uganda.

Home again Wednesday evening at 11:15, March 13. Praise the Lord.

Brother Paul Stump
Brother Dale Jamison

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION"

The first commandment given by God to man after the creation was to "Be fruitful and multiply...to fill the earth...and subdue it." God has given us dominion over the earth. What a responsibility that is.

It was in God's divine purpose that we increase the population of the earth. It might also be noted that we were to understand the earth and its processes. We are to utilize them. This is about the only positive, Biblical side of science that I am comfortable with.

Tragically, man rebelled against God. As a result, he brought upon himself the great curse of decline, decay and death. In the Book of Romans we learn that the "whole creation groans and travails in pain." This condition of "corruption" extends throughout the physical, mental and biological realms. The word corruption refers to decay and disintegration and ultimately to death. This bondage to deterioration corresponds to what the scientists have recognized as the Second Law of Thermodynamics. This Law states that everything in the universe is tending toward an ultimate state of degeneration and death.

But, what about man? We must remember that man is made in the "image of God." He is responsible to God, not only in the exercise of dominion over the earth, but in how he responds to God's work of redeeming and delivering the creation from its bondage of corruption. The first prerequisite for solving the problem of pollution is for people to turn, in repentance and faith, to Jesus Christ. It is "by Him" that "all things were created." It is also by Him that all things consist and have been reconciled. The shedding of Jesus' blood is the redemption price paid for the deliverance of individual souls and ultimately the whole creation.

As long as man continues to reject Christ, there is no real solution to the problem of pollution or corruption. The Word indicates things will grow worse and worse. Ultimately millions will lose their lives in the ultimate upheaval of the earth that will occur during the Tribulation period.

Eventually the earth will be made new and the environment will be radically transformed and revived. The curse will be gone. In the present, however, the effects of man's sinfulness and selfishness will inevitably continue to deteriorate the environment. The judgments that are on us are the result of the "destruction of those who destroy the earth."

If we are fully new in Christ, we are going to love and respect our

Church, our family and those around us. Similarly, we will have compassion on the animal kingdom and will oppose its exploitation. Our standard of living will be relatively simple and we will not make undue demands on the earth's environment and its resources.

The ultimate answer to the pollution problem, then, is only found in Jesus Christ. When He is our Savior and the Lord of our life, we will come fully under His influence.

Brother Len Wertz

POOR IN SPIRIT

"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." Ps. 34:18.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5:3.

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Matt. 5:5.

The child of God and the child of this world are entirely different in whom they admire. The Christian looks up to those with a meek and quiet spirit, while the Greeks despised such a one. Those that follow the philosophy of this world still hate meekness. The world believes in self-confidence, self-expression and the mastery of this life. The Christian believes in being "poor in spirit." Newspapers and magazines will show you the kind of people the world admires. They are certainly not described in the Sermon on the Mount.

The Christian differs from the world in what he seeks after. The Christian hungers and thirsts after righteousness. The worldling hungers and thirsts after wealth, fame, status, power, and position. Look at anyone. What does he seek after? We should especially look at ourselves.

The Christian also differs from the world in what he does. The non-Christian is consistent in that he lives for this world. He believes that this is all there is to existence and he fully intends to get all he can while he can. The Christian, on the other hand, considers this world a dressing room for eternity. His outlook is entirely different. The things of earth are merely transitory. In this the Christian must be consistent also. He must consistently lay up treasures in heaven. He must be a witness of the goodness of God. Part of his meekness comes from seeking to be a witness for Christ. It also stems from the peace that Christ has given the Christian.

O, the joy of sins forgiven.

O, the bliss the bloodwashed know.

O, the peace akin to heaven:

Where the Healing Waters flow.

For the Christian, the heart has been changed. The outlook and desires also have changed. We have been saved and we are now on our way to Heaven. Nothing should distract us from that journey.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

RD 2 Box 561

Newmanstown, PA 17073

CHRISTIAN COURTSHIP

Neil Martin

Continued from April 1, 1996 Issue

If Jesus classifies lustful looks (thoughts) as adultery, how would He classify more intimate activities? Yet people say, "It's not a problem of lust with me, it is just an expression of our love." If that is true, why does it lead so many couples into the actual sin? Couples who thought they would never go that far! Considering the activities many Christian people think are acceptable for courtship, I'm not surprised there is such an epidemic of sin against the body, that is not to be named once among us. James writes in James 1:15, "Then when LUST hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin..." It is not love that results in sin, love is of God. It says earlier in James 1:13-14, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed." Why tempt ourselves to sin? James writes on in the fifteenth verse, "and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." None of us want death.

Have you ever heard of any godly person who regretted that they hadn't engaged in a little more physical familiarity during their courtship? I haven't. But I have heard, and read, of many who had deep regrets because they had used too much liberty. James writes, "when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin." Jesus puts it a little stronger. He says lust is sin. Let's flee; run the other way, not sidle up as close as we can.

Paul writes in II Timothy 2:22, "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart..." It says, "flee youthful lusts." We've been writing some of that. It also says there are some good things to do. It says to follow these good things, "with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." We want to sweep our house clean. We also want to fill it with good things.

We might think of our courtship days as laying the foundation for our married life. If we want to have a good successful marriage, we must start with a good foundation. If we find ourselves in the situation

of a troubled marriage as a result of a poor foundation, there is still hope for us, but we are going to have to start over, repent of the past, and build the way God intended for us to build.

When looking for a life's companion, the Word has some things for us to look for. In I Peter 3:3-5, speaking to wives he says, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the adornment of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trust in God, adorned themselves..." We want to look for this meek and quiet spirit. If it is of great price in the sight of God, surely it should be to us as well. Yet we see women who profess godliness trying to adorn the body, with hairstyles, flashy tight fitting clothing and so forth. That is anything but the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. You hear people say, "But that is not the way that person is. When you get to know them they do have a godly spirit." It also says, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning." How can we say the outward expression doesn't mean anything?

The goal of flash or immodest outward adorning is to get favorable attention for the body or self, so maybe the problem is more the man's than the woman's. If men would not be impressed with an outward show, it would remove the desire to be showy.

"The ornament of a meek and quiet spirit." Never underestimate the importance of it! As life goes on and husband and wife live together, it will greatly affect the harmony and effectiveness of the home, because the Biblical position of the wife is to be submissive. Any other spirit brings confusion and problems.

When a girl considers a boy for dating or marriage, one of the most important things to look for is whether he is considerate of everyone. The Bible commands men to love their wives. Even though you think he is loving you, if he isn't kind toward everyone, be careful. When life goes on and he gets used to you, he will probably treat you like he treats everyone else. You want to look for someone with a converted, loving heart; not just someone who seems obsessed with you.

God had designed it that the man should be the head of the home. That headship should start in the courting years. The man is most responsible for the way the courtship is conducted. Does he willingly, seriously, take his place? Not that the girl can't offer suggestions, or that they shouldn't discuss decisions together but remember, God has designed it that man should be the head of the home, and that the woman should be submissive. It ought to be in the same order in

courtship as well, or it probably won't be that way in marriage either. Is he someone you can willingly submit to? Can you trust his judgment? Any other order besides God's order brings problems.

There are many constructive things to do when a dating couple is together. They can read together, The Bible, as well as other books. They can sing together. They should pray together. Possibly they could go visit old people together. There are many more upbuilding things to do. Most of all, talk with each other. Learn to know the other's likes and dislikes and what their beliefs and convictions are. Find out whether this person is someone you can agree and harmonize with. Never figure you can change him to thinking and acting like you think he should after marriage.

When you are together with the rest of the young folks, be a part of the whole group. There is plenty of time when you are alone together to be with each other. It has always looked like a sign of immaturity to me, when couples started dating, they thought they had to always be together. Whether the young folks are singing, playing games, traveling, whatever they are doing together, be a part of the big group and include everyone. It not only is the considerate way to treat the rest; it is good for you as well. Hopefully, all your life you will be working and associating with this group of people. Right now in young folks is the best time to learn to know, appreciate, and get along well with each other.

It seems to me a courtship should not be too long. How long is too long no doubt varies with age and circumstances. But for the couple who is mature, and has grown up together in the same community, I think a year is probably long enough.

Above all, PRAY TO GOD for GUIDANCE in this matter before you start, and during courtship. God answers sincere prayer.

The Lord be with you all.

Selected by Sister Shirley Frick
From Jan/Feb. 1995 The Pilgrim

A little bit of patience often makes the sunshine come,
And a little bit of love makes a very happy home:
A little bit of hope makes a rainy day look gay,
And a little bit of charity makes glad a weary way.

-from the Evangelical Visitor, 1896

SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 15, 1936

COUNTERFEIT

Ida M. Helm

Webster's dictionary defines the word counterfeit to mean: False, spurious, to put on a semblance of. A forgery, and so forth.

We all know counterfeit money is worthless. We like to steer clear of things that are false, that are forgeries, worthless. We hear considerable shallow, yes worse than worthless talk these days, claiming that it does not matter much what one accepts as Bible doctrine, it doesn't matter whether he be baptized or whether he celebrate the Lord's supper or washes the saints feet, or lives the plain, simple life, or observes the teaching of the headship of Christ. If he believes in the divinity of Christ and lives a clean life that is enough, it is the clean living that counts.

An old friend of mine, a gifted Sunday School teacher, used to say, "It doesn't matter what you believe, or what I believe, it's what God believes that counts." My belief nor your belief won't save us. We must believe and do God's revealed will to man if we would be saved. We must ring true to the gospel sound.

Perhaps a number of us have read about a counterfeit five dollar bill that was handed in to the bank teller for smaller pieces of money. The teller handed it back. What's wrong? asked the owner of the money. "Counterfeit," said the teller. That counterfeit bill had been in circulation a couple of weeks and had been used to pay a doctor bill, it had been used to buy groceries, it bought a pair of shoes, it had been handed in to the welfare board and was used to buy provisions for a needy family. People believed it to be all right and accepted it at full value. Now it came to the observation of one that was able to detect its real quality, and it was turned down as worthless. It's record of good was null and void.

There are religious leaders today that tell us, God will accept you and your belief and everything will be all right on the judgment day if you are sincere and your heart is right. They forget perhaps that if the heart is right the whole life will be right, the light of the Holy Spirit will reveal Christ in our daily life. Perhaps they forget that the devil believes and he trembles when he thinks of the awful judgment and the horrible lake of fire that is in store for him.

Nothing is more contrary to the plain teaching of God's word, than the doctrine of "just so you believe and are sincere, everything will be all right with God."

Hundreds of years before Jesus came into this world the Jewish prophet Isaiah, looking down through the centuries, writing by the inspiration of the Spirit of God said, "Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation." (Isa. 28:16.) The apostles saw the ultimate fulfillment of Isaiah's words in the person of Jesus Christ.

Centuries after Isaiah's time Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles guided by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit wrote, "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (I Cor. 3:11.)

Blessed is the person that builds their life's work on the solid Rock Foundation, Jesus Christ. What would Isaiah and Paul say if now after more than 1900 years of professed Christian building they could see the superstructure that had been builded. What a fantastic mass of medley of structures!

Men and women have moved off the Solid Rock Christ Jesus, and builded on the shifting sand. They have discarded the precious material Jesus provided for them and used material of their own choosing.

Paul further says, "But if any man buildeth on the foundation gold, silver, costly stone, wood, hay, stubble, each man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire itself shall prove each man's work of what sort it is." (I Cor. 3:12-13.)

Some people make great appearance of piety and diligence while bringing in mere rubbish, lifeless material that has no living seed of truth; doctrine commandments of men, works that please the fleshly, carnal desires. They bring them in and set them in the temple they are building for eternity. Some are working for quantity rather than quality in their superstructure, but it is true as has been said, additional size means additional danger if the material is not sound. God is not mocked. Listen! Paul says, "Ye also as living stones, are built up a spiritual house...acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

Every person's work must come before the observation of One who knows the true quality of the material used and if it be counterfeit it will be cast away as worthless rubbish. Every person's building will have to face the storm that will thoroughly test the foundation on which it is built. The tempest will wrench and strain the superstructure, and if the stones laid in the walls are unsound they will come down with a crash.

The fingers of time will handle our building roughly but the living stones provided by Jesus Christ with which He would have us build will survive the wrecks that time pulls down, they will remain when

heaven and earth pass away.

We may live lives that are considered clean, free from vicious sins and be looked upon as true Christians. Perhaps we have been permitted to join the church on the strength of our clean living, but if we have never from the heart made open confession and repented of our sins and accepted the Lord Jesus as our personal Savior according to His plan of salvation all else will avail us nothing.

At one time David sinned grievously and at first he did not repent and confess. He says, "When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all the day long...my moisture was changed as with the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sins unto Thee and mine iniquity did I not hide: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto Jehovah; and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my soul."

Jesus warns against counterfeit building when He said, "Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, And then will I profess unto them I never knew you." (Matt. 7:22-23.)

On what are you building, my brother,
Your hopes of an eternal home;
Is it loose sand,
Or the firm, solid rock
You are trusting for ages to come?

No matter how careful, my brother,
The sand for your house you prepare.
'Twill be all swept away
When the flood shall descend
Leaving nothing but death and despair.

Your Savior has warned you my brother,
I pray you give heed to His voice,
There is life on the rock
But there's death on the sand,
O, my brother pray tell me your choice.

Hearing and doing we build on the rock,
Hearing alone we build on the sand,
Both will be tried by the storm and the flood,
Only the rock the trial will stand.

On one or the other my brother,
You are building your hopes day by day;
You are risking your soul
On the works that you do,
Will the dark waters sweep you away?

LET BROTHERLY LOVE CONTINUE

Hebrews 13:1

We are instructed in this verse of Scripture to let (or allow) brotherly love to continue. This would suggest that there is a responsibility on our part. In order for this to happen we must be willing to put self in the back seat. We believe one of the hardest verses to put into practice is Philippians 2:3. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind, let each esteem other better than themselves."

This verse also speaks of a very special type of love, brotherly love. The writer of Hebrews mentions another type of love in this chapter that is ignored in a large segment of society, and unfortunately also in the earthly church, today. "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."

He also mentions a more general type of love in Hebrews 12:14, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." The type of love that should be found within the marriage relationship and the type of love that allows us to follow peace with all men, including our enemies, is very important. Yet, at least in a sense, brotherly love supersedes both of these.

The home is a very important institution. It is deplorable that government and modern society can not even define what a family is. Peace with all men, from which comes the doctrine of nonresistance, is a very important part of our Christian life. Neither of these can be attained outside of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We do not believe this relationship can be successfully maintained outside of the Church, unless very unusual and extreme circumstances would prevent combined worship. Without brotherly love the earthly church is nothing but an empty shell.

In order for brotherly love to continue we have to determine who is our brother (or sister). We do not believe this can be limited to one denomination or gathering. We believe there is a danger in becoming so self-righteous that we judge who is or is not a true Christian by our understanding of Scripture. However, there is also a danger in ignoring Holy Scripture in order to promote brotherly love. In this very same chapter, verse 9, we are warned, "Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines..." The desire for Christian unity comes from the heart of God. True unity is found within the pages of Holy Scripture. God is a God of love and mercy, but in Hebrews 12:29 we read, "For our God is a consuming fire."

Brotherly love includes our love and respect for those who have

authority within the Church. In verse 7 of this chapter we read, "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation." There are those who teach that we must follow the teaching of those who have authority over us even if it is error. That is not scriptural teaching. The Bible clearly says we are to follow those "who have spoken unto you the word of God." We fear that many who hold an office of leadership do not realize their responsibility to not only those whom they hold rule over but also to God! Hebrews 13:17 instructs and informs us, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

Therefore it should be our desire for brotherly love to continue. As we have already suggested, for it to continue it must have a start. We have already alluded to the fact that a relationship with Jesus Christ is the foundation of brotherly love. For brotherly love to continue this foundation must be built upon. In Hebrews 13:12 we read, "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." Conversely brotherly love demands a stand for righteousness as well as a willingness to esteem others better than ourselves. Hebrews 13:6, "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." We believe this also includes not fearing what man may say about us.

Brotherly love can not be accomplished without the strength of God within. We pray that God will "Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever." Then, and only then, can we "Let brotherly love continue." "Grace be with you all, Amen."

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NEWS ITEM

MC CLAVE, COLORADO

The McClave Congregation will be holding their Spring Lovefeast, April 27-28. Come worship with us!

May the Lord bless and keep you.

Sister Tina Wertz, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 1996

May 5 - The Doctrine of God - John 7:1-31.

1. Why does the unsaved world hate Jesus Christ?
2. Why could not the Jews take Jesus at this time?

May 12 - Mother's Day - Ruth 1:1-18.

1. Explain the responsibilities of motherhood.
2. Name the character qualities of a good Mother.

May 19 - Thursting For God - John 7:32-53.

1. Why was there so much confusion and so many different opinions about the identity of Jesus?
2. What about Jesus impressed the officers sent to take Him?

May 26 - Forgiveness: "Go and sin no more." - John 8:1-11.

1. What brought conviction of sin to the accusers?
2. Compare Old Testament punishment with New Testament forgiveness.

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
FOR MAY 1996**

May 5 - A Redeemer - Isa. 59:1-21, Acts 4:10-12.

1. What separates us from God?
2. To whom was the Redeemer promised?

May 12 - Mother's Day - Gen. 3:17-24, Gen. 27:1-16, 42-46, Pro. 31:1-3.

1. What does the name Eve mean?
2. Why did Rebekah help her son Jacob trick his father Isaac?

May 19 - Redemption - Rom. 3:24-26, I Cor. 1:27-31, Gal. 3:1-14, Col. 1:12-18, Titus 2:11-15, Rev. 5:9-10, Heb. 9:11-12, I Pet. 1:18-25.

1. By whom do we receive redemption?
2. How can we receive the promise of the spirit?

May 26 - Battle of Life - Rom. 7:14-25, II Cor. 10:3-6, Eph. 6:12, I Tim. 1:18-20, 6:12-16.

1. Against whom is the Battle of life fought?
2. What caused some to experience shipwreck in the battle of life?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 9

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THOUGHTS ON JUDGMENT

And must I be to judgment brought,
And answer in that day,
For ev'ry vain and idle thought,
And ev'ry word I say?

Yes, ev'ry secret of my heart
Shall shortly be made known,
And I receive my just desert,
For all that I have done.

How careful then ought I to live,
With what religious fear!
Who such a strict account must give,
For my behavior here.

Thou awful Judge of quick and dead,
Thy watchful pow'r bestow!
So shall I to my ways take heed,
To all I speak or do.

If now thou standest at the door,
O let me feel thee near!
And make my peace with God, before
I at thy bar appear.

-Charles Wesley

SOME MUSINGS

Do you ever sit or lie and just think? It might be called reminiscencing or brainstorming. If it is particularly deep and Spiritual, it might be called meditation.

Our meditations may range over many areas. To make our meditations of value to our spiritual lives, we must check our thoughts with God's Word. If we find our thoughts vary from the revealed will of God, we must rethink our answers. To meditate without reference to God's will, will cause us to go astray if we follow the conclusions of our own meditations.

Today, the object of our meditations might be the present, low, moral conditions that pervade our society. We wonder why permissiveness is the rule. We live in a society that does not value high standards. Our society is governed by the motto of self-pleasure. Just as in the time of the Judges, when every man did what was right in his own eyes, so today each sets his own standard. An imposed standard is rejected. Individualism has become the prevailing philosophy.

Another question that might engage our meditative mood concerns why the Church is held in such low esteem by not only the world but even by her own members. The answer to this question is multifaceted. It is related to the rise of individualism. When a person sets his own standard he does not want the church to set a higher standard for him. He idealizes his own rights and negates the Church's right. He does not respect the church and may come to despise her. He does not want to be told what he must or must not do.

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If the church sets a standard but does not enforce it consistently, her members think ill of her for setting a false standard. How can they honor her, if she does not insist upon their allegiance? The Church must be sure of her standard. When sure of it, she must enforce it. If a standard proves to be unworkable, unfair or unscriptural, the same method can be used to repeal as to impose it. An unfair or double standard will erode respect for the Church.

Perhaps one of the main reasons both society and the Church have become more permissive is the altered view that people have of God. God, no longer, strikes fear in the hearts of men and women. In centuries gone by, God was perceived as an angry God, who would execute judgment. He was pictured as a God of wrath. There was no idea of being less than serious about God's attitude toward man and his sin. God was not a subject of scorn and humor. He was revered. Even those who did not believe or attempt to live a Christian life were awe-struck by God. There was a fear of God that pervaded society. Everyone took God seriously. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that He clearly meant whatever He commanded. Those not willing to yield to His ways knew that they were in line for serious punishment, which they did not doubt would be meted out to them in the future.

Over the past few decades the picture of God as loving, and nonjudgmental has become prominent. His love is very evident in the drawing of the plan of salvation. He has given His only begotten Son as the ransom for our souls. Surely He has shown to mankind love beyond our greatest desire.

Unfortunately, His love has been emphasized to such an extent that His wrath has been forgotten. He no longer is presented as a God who should be feared. He has become a warm and fuzzy talisman that will keep us from all harm or discipline. There no longer is any fear of what awaits those who fail to accept His Gift or to live as He wills. It is thought that His love will cover everything, good, bad or indifferent. Man does not think that God would ever unleash His anger and wrath toward him. The time has passed when saints or sinners fear what He will do. They feel He would not dare show His anger toward men.

Because we perceive that He will only show love and kindness toward us, we believe that little will be required of us. We have become permissive in our private lives. We have lacked discipline in our Churches. If we are depending upon God's love, but do not fear His wrath, we will consider whatever we do as being acceptable. We do not think of Him ever punishing us for our neglect of His Word,

way, and will.

When we muse upon our present situation in the world, many thoughts can come to us. These thoughts if consistent with the Word of God can lead us into a deeper understanding of God and His will for us. If we gain that understanding, we can better serve Him.

Have you been meditating upon subjects that will lead you into a deeper Spiritual life?

M.C.Cook

SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 1, 1936

SPEAKING SOUND DOCTRINE

D. W. Hostetler

In Titus 2:1, we read, "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine." The revision has it, "benefit sound doctrine." In I Timothy 6:2, Paul has the following in reference to sound doctrine, "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine, which is according to Godliness." And to live the doctrine of our Lord brings forth a Godly life. The indication here is that there are doctrines that are not sound. These unsound doctrines cannot make or produce godliness.

Jesus sent His disciples out to teach, but before sending them, He was very careful to teach them to reproduce the virtues of His own life. And this they did by living the things He taught them. Doctrine is that which is taught or set forth to be believed and accepted. It is true then that the system of doctrine that is believed and accepted becomes the individual's life. It behooves us to teach sound doctrine, for that becomes the object of faith, and that system of teaching is lived. That, then is sound living, and "doctrine" means commandments, precepts, ordinances, or orders intended as an authoritative rule of action. It is a system of rules laid down by divine authority, to regulate life.

(Psa. 119:4). "Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently." This word "diligently" means industriously, steadily, painstakingly, carefully, So the matter of teaching New Testament doctrine, as Jesus intended that we should is a very important and serious matter.

(Psa. 119:15). "I will meditate in thy precepts and have respect unto thy ways." Two things here need our consideration. The first is to meditate in the precepts as God has laid them down in His word. To respect is to avoid injuring God's ways. It is to hold sacred, to

treat with reverence, pay heed to. Taking this view of the word "respect" as used in the above text is of vital importance. To question some of the doctrines of Christ and try to set them aside is not showing very much respect to God's ways. In the first chapter, second verse, David speaking of a righteous man says, "his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law doth he meditate day and night."

To "speak the things which become sound doctrine" means to teach, to instruct, to indoctrinate that which is sound, to get people to believe and embrace sound doctrine.

Furthermore it carries the idea of discipline, chastisement, correction. It is no wonder that Paul said to Timothy, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect throughly furnished unto all good works."

"Throughly" means "completely." To be "throughly furnished unto all good works" is to be throughly trained in the doctrine of our Lord and to have everything the soul needs to live on and to be prepared for the future life.

What is it that perfects? It is the doctrine that has been given by the divine inspiration of God. And in order to reach this standard of perfection, it takes the whole system of the doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul says to Titus (2:6), that young men should be "sober minded, thinking and meditating in sound doctrine." The trouble is there is so much unsound doctrine taught these days that the religious world has become intoxicated with falsehoods so that it is reeling like a drunk man. It is no wonder that there is the unrest, uneasiness, and dissatisfaction there is in the world. Having lost the sound doctrines that are now taught to be obsolete, the world is without faith in anything dependable, or worthy of faith.

Paul goes on in this same chapter of Titus, and tells how to adorn the doctrine. "Now purloining," but that we should show all "good fidelity." Let me call attention to that word "purloining." It means "to remove, to steal." So to take away sound doctrine and teach something else would be stealing. Jesus in John 10:10 says, "The thief comes not but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Again Paul tells us that "all that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." So long then as we stand true to sound doctrine we need not expect anything but disfavor from modern Christendom. Paul further says, "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and

worse, deceiving and being deceived." Then Paul tells us to go on, and "continue in the things we have learned, remembering of whom we have learned them."

In Acts we read about the great success of the apostles. And this success was due to the fact that they continued steadfastly in the Savior's doctrine, and that they were in fellowship, in love and union, and had only one aim and purpose, and were prompted by the same motive. They had all things common. They shared equally united in one thing. All of us should have equal rights, and there should be no big I's and little you's. Well could James say, "My Brethren have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ with respect of persons." But we are all one in Christ Jesus. And by this oneness in Christ, we become helpful to each other and when we have that system of sound doctrine within, we are willing to impart or share with others. May the Lord help us to this end.

PRAYER

What shall we pray for?
We can't presume to know what's best
When we begin to pray;
So we must ask, "What honors God?"
And seek His will and way.

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us." I John 5:14.

It is all right, indeed, it is necessary that we pray for ourselves.

"And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested." I Chron. 4:10.

"For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him." I Sam. 1:27.

"Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain." Prov. 30:7-9.

Please read I Kings 18:21-46, II Kings 19:14-37, II Chron. 18:31-32.

"Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance. For I was ashamed to

require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him. So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated for us." Ezra 8:21-23.

"Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven." Dan. 2:17-19.

We need to come together in prayer.

"Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18:19-20.

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matt. 26:41.

"Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." John 16:24.

"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:13-16.

The Psalms are full of the prayers of David and others. There are too many to write of them all. One of the more notable follows.

"Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." Psalm 19:12-14.

The prayer of a broken and contrite heart, found in the 51st Psalm, is made by one who needed to be restored. He prayed for mercy, for cleansing, for a clean heart and a right spirit. He prayed that he might have the Holy Spirit, that he might dwell in his presence, and for the

joy of Salvation. Please read this Psalm carefully and prayerfully.

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7.

These are the gifts I ask
Of thee Spirit serene:
Strength for the daily task,
Courage to face the road,
Good cheer to help me bear the traveler's load
And, for the hours of rest that come between,
An inward joy in all things heard and seen.

These are the sins I fain
Would have thee take away
Malice and cold disdain,
Hot anger, sullen hate,
Scorn of the lowly, envy of the great,
And discontent that casts a shadow gray
On all the brightness of the common day.

-Henry Van Dyke

May God bless you all, and keep you in the hollow of His hand.

Brother William Carpenter

MARTYRS OF THE CHURCH

Revelation 6:9-10, "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"

Revelation 20:4, "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

Being a martyr is no guarantee that an individual is in a right relationship with the true God. Many have given their lives for a false religion or a human cause. But down through the ages there have been those who have been willing to die for the true faith once delivered unto the Saints. There is a popular religious movement seemingly gaining in popularity that makes the death of these true Saints ludicrous at best.

In our two opening verses we find those who were willing to die for

the word of God. Within the modern earthly church there are those who take great delight in ridiculing those who "worship a book." We agree that there are those who use the Bible wrongly as some type of magical talisman. Some have great reverence for the printed pages but never take the time to open the cover of the book. Others wrongly teach that the belief in the Bible will keep an individual from all dangers. We believe that God does keep watch over those who are His own, but the very fact that the Bible tells of martyrs proves we are not exempt from fatal dangers. Without the Holy Word of God we have no directive to lead us into the ways of Truth.

The martyrs also were willing to die for the witness of Jesus. This was not just any "Jesus" but the Lord Jesus Christ of Holy Scripture. Brothers and Sisters, do not ever allow anyone to convince you that the virgin birth, sinless life, glorious resurrection and ascension into Heaven of Jesus Christ, along with His literal second coming, are not important! We read of those who are joining in with cults and liberals to further a moral issue. It is reported that a modern movement that rightly gives strength to the teaching that the husband is the head of the home and the importance of the marriage relationship refuses to make true doctrine an issue. The pulpits of the land are all too often filled by individuals who believe Jesus Christ is a son of God but not God the Son.

They were also willing to die for the testimony which they held. Sadly, most individuals today are not even willing to live for what they believe much less die for it. We believe the true Church is made up of individuals from many different denominations and independent groups. God is the final judge of who is a part of the family of God. We also believe that the plain way of life is a testimony to the world of who we are. To give up this testimony is a great loss we believe with all our heart.

The last part of this manuscript is not meant to be the final word of interpretation or understanding of the book of Revelation. We respect those who disagree with our conclusions. The martyrs refused to worship the beast and to take his mark upon their foreheads or in their hands. We believe the beast is symbolic of this world and its system. This system is tied into a false religious system in a very intricate way. We have read of a time in history when it was impossible to buy or sell unless you belonged to the false religious system that had the power of that day. The head of this false church has great political power even today. Many evangelicals are "kissing the feet" and encouraging the true Church to accept him as a true prophet of God. There is also the New Age Movement, humanism and liberalism. We believe that

there will be greater force put upon others to accept false leaders as a part of the true Church. We would encourage our Dunkard Brethren leaders and members to continue to refuse to be a part of any ecumenical gatherings or efforts.

The mark upon their foreheads is symbolical of our thoughts. Most of today's religious books being distributed have the hidden agenda of supporting worldly activities and actions once opposed by the true Church. Once they have gained control of your mind they will control what you do and you will receive the mark of the beast in your hands.

May God give us the strength to live out the Word of God and to die for it if necessary. The Lord Jesus Christ was more than a martyr. He died on the cross of Calvary as the lamb of God for our sins. If you have never been washed in the blood symbolized by trine immersion baptism we urge you to repent and be saved.

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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Sins of Omission"

The usual way of cataloging our sins is to list the times we do something that we should not do. This is certainly not wrong as we need to be constantly examining ourselves but it touches on only a part of the sin problem. We understand that failing to do what we should do is equally as sinful as what we do that we should not do.

The Bible definition of sin is the transgression of the law of God. (1 John 3:4) But, refusing to do the laws of God is just as sinful and rebellious as engaging in what the laws of God forbid. We are taught in James 4:17, "Therefore, to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." God considers sins of omission just as reprehensible as those of commission. This is because the underlying attitude is the same in both cases.

I fear that many people conclude that doing nothing is sort of a prized virtue. They define spirituality in terms of what they abstain from. We cannot live and please God without denying ungodliness and worldly desires. If we do not fill our life with righteousness, we will revert back to our old sinful lifestyle.

God's Word forbids evil activity and instructs us to be fully involved in holy activity. We are equipped for good work as we are faithful to Him. The Apostle Paul taught us not only to put off the old man but to put on the new man. This shows two actions and if either one is not practiced, there will be sin in our life.

Should we be totally fearful about the sins of omission to such a degree that it becomes an emotional crisis? The answer is a clear, "no". This kind of obsession is unbiblical because it shows that we are attempting to conquer sin under our own power. We cannot conquer it without God's spirit giving us strength and guidance.

Recognition of the omission of righteousness is fully as sinful as committing unrighteous acts. Apathy toward the sins of omission will take away our joy. Our service will become increasingly meaningless.

Evaluate God's Word. Is He asking you to do certain things that you are not doing or do not want to do at this time? If so, now is the time to ask for His forgiveness and accept His instruction for action.

Brother Len Wertz

WHERE ARE WE?

THE PROPHETIC HOUR IN WHICH WE LIVE IS LATE. Are we building our houses on the Rock or on the sand? Daily Bible reading is a must for alert truth-seekers of God's Word.

I try to follow this pattern. Early in the morning before I become involved in my daily duties, and before my mind, clear from a night's rest, has been disturbed by tiredness and dullness, this is what I do. I read a passage slowly, verse by verse. I read them many times over and over again. I try to grasp the truth that the Holy Spirit is trying to show me, just the way Elohim and the writer of the book wants me to know it.

I no longer consider reading the Bible through in a given length of time. It makes no difference how fast I read, but what I have learned from what I read. Have I prepared my heart and mind to absorb and do what I read? Rebellion to any part of the Holy Scriptures puts stumbling blocks in my heavenly path to glory. God hates rebellion, it is as witchcraft to Him. How He must hate the work of witches who are serving Satan. "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry..." I Sam. 15:23.

Then, I read the Bible in the order which the Holy Spirit leads me. Recently my reading has been Revelation, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and this morning into Isaiah.

Now, Isaiah was a good prophet of Elohim. He obeyed Elohim to carry messages for Him even to kings, some of whom were not godly. Sometimes they were not friendly to the prophet who told them of their faults, and that they should repent and bring their nation back to God. As I read that first chapter it very much reminds me of the condition of the world about us, and yes, also, of the churches which the people attend. The Israelites did their sacrifices, burnt their

the people attend. The Israelites did their sacrifices, burnt their incense, went through rituals, but they also loved their pleasures, fun and gluttony at the places of idolatry with the people of the world. They talked religiously, but their minds were dirty. Their hearts were not clean and pure. They did mischief with their hands. They ran to do evil. Please read Isaiah 29:13. This is the mind boggling picture of things about us every day. Please read Isaiah 1 with me and note the job that was given Isaiah to do in order to get Israel (God's people of the Old Testament) to depart from evil and serve Elohim. Read of the promises if they would obey, and of the destruction if they continued on in their sins. Verse 28 "And the destruction of the transgressors (those who profess but obey not) and of the sinners (not professing people) shall be together, and they that forsake the Lord (people who at one time were obedient) shall be consumed." Please read carefully this whole chapter and then reread again and again if necessary to get the whole truth that Yahweh gave Isaiah to deliver. Then consider our world, our churches and our families, today. Then, please, let us forsake evil of all kinds in our lives. "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Rev. 21:8.

How few or many will stand? Will you and I? Believe me, it is time to seek after God's pearl of great price. It is time to sell out all of Satan's works, words, and thoughts and to get our record clean in Yashua's books of life. Then we will have no fears and will not need to cross Jordan alone.

"O, Elohim, how great thou art

You gave us, your Son for a Saviour Jesus Christ

All the worlds innumerable were made by you.

You put me here for a purpose

Guide and help me to fulfill that purpose

To your honor and glory."

AMEN

Sister Ruth M. Snyder

6159 Garrett Highway

Oakland. MD 21550

YIELDING A SPIRITUAL RESULT

"...let me never be put to confusion." Psalm 71:1

We are blessed in this age by having access to God's Word at every hand. Yet the devil has his counterfeit in many modern Bible

argument concerning these modern versions. Let us not argue about how well they can be understood, or how the language flows, or how devoted were the translators to their task.

We must concern ourselves with results. When purchasing a tractor, the farmer concerns himself with durability and cost-effectiveness. He will usually pick a brand-name that has stood the test of time, one that does not break down. David challenged the giant Goliath and was offered Saul's armor, yet he did not use it because he had not had a chance to prove it. The King James Bible has stood the test of time though today many openly ridicule this blessed old Book. It has been proven, and as we look back over times passed we see spiritual results that are not duplicated today.

In Psalm 71 the writer prays, "let me never be put to confusion." Let this be our prayer. In this day and age we must do all we can to steer clear of confusion. The modern Bible versions, on the surface, seem to make things clearer, but do they? I grew up in a church that went the route of the world council of churches, and when the world council approved the Revised Standard Version then that is what everyone got. When the Lord began to convict me of sin in my sixteenth year, I was led to buy an inexpensive King James Bible, one without any helps whatsoever. I sat down with it and a Webster's Dictionary and began to read it through. I have never regretted this move, and I recommend it to all. I know a Brother who could not read or write until he became converted. He then taught himself to read and write with only a Bible and a dictionary.

Over a century ago there was confusion in the church because of the switch to preaching in English. It was not because German was bad. From my experience it seems that German is a much clearer language than English. But if the church in America was to evangelize, it had to do so in the language of the people. In those days the King James was the only English Bible, for the most part, and the Martin Luther was the only German Bible. Confusion was kept to a minimum. The devil was busy a hundred years ago just as he is today. Other things came in to divide the church back then, like Sunday School, revival meetings, paid pastors, raised pulpits, and the like. Judge for yourself as to whether or not the church was improved by these innovations.

I realize that preaching "in the language of the people" is the excuse used by adherents to the modern Bible versions, but it is wrong to substitute clarity for accuracy. It is likewise wrong to make the simpler truths of scripture more understandable and at the same time make light of the deeper truths. I have read several of the new

time make light of the deeper truths. I have read several of the new versions. This is what they do.

The truth is that we see very little evidence of people being led into a deeper spiritual experience with modern Bible versions. We do not see holy living, sacrificial living or a desire for the eternal verities. Just as in farming, our concern should be with yield: not just quantity, but quality also. We should therefore stick with that which has been proven.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

OBITUARY JACK MILLER

Bro. Jack Duane Miller was born May 31, 1923, at Ellendale, North Dakota and departed this life March 5, 1996, at the Veterans Medical Center at Dayton, Ohio.

His parents were Clarence J. and Fern (Waller) Miller.

Having survived two previous wives, he was married to Alice V. (Harmon) Reed of La Harpe, Illinois on July 12, 1981, at the Dallas Center, Iowa Dunkard Brethren Church.

He and Alice lived in La Harpe, Illinois until 1986 when they moved to Darke County, Ohio.

He is survived by his wife, Alice, a daughter, Charlotte Jean Bomstad of Minneapolis, Minnesota, a sister, Jean Hill of Ellendale, North Dakota, and two grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first two wives, and a brother.

Jack was baptized into the Dunkard Brethren Church in 1981 and to those vows he remained faithful until death.

He worked for a farmer and lived on that farm. He also sold magazine subscriptions from door to door in different states.

Funeral services were conducted at 2:00 P.M., Saturday, March 9, at the Englewood Dunkard Brethren Church with Bro. Phil Gish and Bro. David Rice officiating. He was laid to rest at the Royal Oaks Memorial Gardens, Englewood, Ohio. Bro. William Heisey conducted the graveside service.

"UPON THE WALL THE CRUTCHES HUNG"

Upon the wall the crutches hung.

Waiting for when the need would rise

To once again give him a stride.

For many years they've served his body,

Balancing, supporting, holding steady.

But on the wall the crutches hung.
Carefully the nurses scurried,
The doctors pondered, all others worried.
With the sum of all their medicine ready,
Balancing, supporting, holding steady.

Yet on the wall the crutches hung.
Finally, the message came,
That life for him wouldn't be the same.
He'd left this world for his home in Heaven.
Where Jesus holds, no helps are needed.

So on the wall the crutches hung.
The day that Jesus hung in the sky,
All who knew Him wondered "Why?"
On that cross, those splintery beams,
There was no glory in what could be seen!

Upon that cross my Jesus hung.
He died that day, but arose in three!
His glory, not seen, was yet to be.
And in our lives great pain we'll see.
It can't compare to what glory will be!

Upon that cross my Jesus hung.
But someday soon, in Heaven, we'll run!

-Bro. David Rice

I wish to thank all that helped me during the sickness and death of my husband.

Sister Alice V. Miller

NEWS ITEM

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Lord willing, we, the Mechanicsburg Congregation, are planning a week-end Revival Meeting at Brightbill's, two miles east of Campbelltown on Route 322. Brother John L. Peffer has consented to be our Evangelist. The meeting dates are May 31 to June 2. Come worship the Lord with us and pray that all will be revived and new souls brought into the Kingdom of God.

Sister Ruth N. Miller, Cor.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 10

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

BE TRUE THYSELF

Thou must be true thyself

 If thou the truth wouldst teach;

Thy soul must overflow if thou

 Another's soul wouldst reach.

It needs the overflow of heart

 To give the lips full speech.

Think truly, and thy thoughts

 Shall the world's famine feed;

Speak truly, and each word of thine

 Shall be a fruitful seed;

Live truly, and thy life shall be

 A great and noble creed.

-Horatius Bonar

TO BE A STRONG MAN

We have all seen the magazines that feature strong, athletic men and women. They often present a view that is not pleasing. They have devoted themselves to developing a certain physique until they have become grotesque. They have gone beyond the requirements of good health to hone their bodies to a certain standard. To attain this development, many have used unhealthy or illegal drugs and devices. In pursuit of this fitness, they have deprived other body organs of their needed role and health. These bodybuilders are the epitome of extreme, development of the physical body.

We may be in awe of such strength and physical perfection. As we contemplate the bodies that we have, we may become dissatisfied with the way we are. Certainly if we are obese or out of shape to the extent that our health is impaired, it is not wrong to alter our routine of diet and exercise. To seek a grotesque shape or to use dangerous drugs to achieve these changes is not right.

Unlike this presentation of physical strength, the Christian's strength is spiritual. The Christian can appreciate physical strength, but realizes it is temporary. During this life, as people grow older, their bodies show the effects of their advancing years. Some may retain their strength and agility longer than others, but not forever. The physical body is a wonderful creation of God. It should be honored and protected as a part of our honor for our Creator. Yet, it remains that this body is on the way to the grave from the moment of birth.

Since the body is not the Christian's main source of strength, he should be pursuing spiritual strength, which is eternal. The Holy

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Spirit, the third person of the triune Godhead, is eternal. He comes to dwell within the individual believer. As long as the Christian continues to make a pleasant dwelling place for Him, He will stay. Making that pleasant home requires a strength that does not come through the rigors of physical training. Spiritual strength does demand special diet and exercise.

The Christian does not count calories or calculate the weight he can lift. He pursues a Spiritual diet. The Word of God will provide the food that is needed for Spiritual growth. A Christian's reading of the Bible should be as faithful as his intake of natural food. It is just as necessary. The Christian needs to exercise in various ways. One exercise involves bowing the head, hands and knees to seek needed help from Above. He may do other exercises including going to every meeting of believers possible. It is for his good and for the good of the others there when he shows up at the House of the Lord. He puts himself in the place where he can receive instruction and encouragement. He, in turn, encourages the others who are there. He can exercise by not only being there but by participating by using whatever talent God has given him. He may exercise by participating in the ordinances of the Church. By being a part of these commanded observances, he strengthens himself and encourages others. By taking a part in these ordinances, he is helping to guarantee their continuing presence to help draw the members' minds to the Christ who gave Himself for them. The ordinances teach and draw minds to the great, doctrinal truths of the Bible. Outside the formal services of the Church, he can exercise by showing love and helpfulness to those who stand in need, whether a part of the fellowship or not. He can by a donation of time, money or effort provide help to those less fortunate. He may exercise by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, either through personal contact or by support of others serving in distant fields. There are many ways, both private and public, that a Christian may exercise. This type of exercise will strengthen him, just as weights strengthen the athlete.

One element of the Christian's strength that may seem contradictory is his need for weakness. That seems all wrong, when strength is his goal. A person's greatest strength may come when he is able to express his great weakness. It is necessary for people to admit they are weak. They realize their need of God's help to receive the required strength. The submission necessary to receive this strength is contrary to human nature. It is the human side of man that proclaims that he is able to do as he pleases. It is when he realizes that he must submit to God, that he is able to develop the total strength that he needs. Giving up his own strength, he is able to

receive the strength from above that will make him the strong person he should be.

Have you yielded your strength to God, so you can be truly strong?
Do you diet and exercise to improve that strength?

M.C.Cook

THE CALL

Help! Help! Help! Is the cry of the world!
Go! Go! Go! The command of the Lord!

Hopeless and lost the world reaches out
Hearts aching and sore; living in doubt.
Heathen and lost in faraway lands
Have searching eyes and outstretched hands.

Children in rags are pitifully poor,
Many are sick or wounded and sore.
In Satan's clutches their souls are trapped
And from their hearts all happiness sapped.

Can we as Christians sit idly by
And stop our ears to their pit'ous cry?
How can we rock in our easy chair
When we should be on our knees in prayer?

With all our clothing and all our wealth
Numerous blessings and vibrant health
We loaf around and lazily sigh—
"What is the use? Why bother to try?"

While all around us are bleeding hearts
We stubbornly fail to do our parts.
Ashamed we should be when God looks down
With sorrowful heart and woeful frown.

Help! Help! Help! Is the cry of the world!
Go! Go! Go! The command of the Lord!
Sister Heidi Keller

STEPPING OUT

"And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous he was afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" Matthew 14:28-31.

According to the dictionary, a person who stays in his room all the time and is afraid to go out of his house suffers from Agoraphobia. There are many out there with this ailment. This type of person fears making new relationships, or fears the unknown, or is afraid that something will happen. A patient at our hospital, every time he sees me, asks, "What is going to happen?"

The world is flocking to psychics nowadays, which is a modern term for witch. The world wants to know what is going to happen. If people could really see the future they would see their doom. Why pay a psychic, when God's Word has the answer?

When Peter saw Jesus walking on the water he wanted to also. Jesus bade him come. Peter was willing to step out, but he had to learn a lesson from Jesus. When the waves and the wind became contrary his faith weakened. It became necessary for Peter to call upon the Lord for salvation. Only then was he able to see the strength of Jesus compared to his own weakness. Jesus was telling him, in effect, do not be swayed or influenced by the waves. I will keep you. Your fear will cause you to see your weakness. Focus on my strength instead. As followers of Christ we must learn to entrust our future to the Lord: Not just tomorrow, but today as well.

When he asked to walk on the water Jesus said, "Come." He did not say, "You are not ready yet," or, "you are not spiritual enough yet." He said, "Come." That simple act of trusting Jesus enough to obey His command is the act of faith that saves us. We have often spoken on these pages about counting the cost, about sitting down and considering. There are instances in scripture, like this one, where Jesus' command had to be obeyed instantly, without thought. When Jesus selected the Twelve Disciples they followed without too much hesitation. When they told Jesus they must do something first, like bury a loved one, Jesus interpreted the reason as an excuse. He said, "Follow me and let the dead bury their dead."

There are many times when we must step out in faith, as Peter did. Sometimes, as with Peter we are not given a chance to think, but if

we love Jesus, we will follow Him, whether we think we are ready or not.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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Newmanstown, PA 17073

THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE

I have often wondered why, when God began to populate this earth by making Adam and Eve, He permitted Satan to be here and to destroy His plan. God wanted man to love and serve Him. He wanted man to be willing to sacrifice his carnal desires to prove his love for Him. He did not want robots. We would not have been happy if we, as a herd of cattle, were being driven down a lane, not knowing what was beyond, whether a new pasture or a slaughter house. He made us creatures of choice with minds, thinking power and the wisdom to know and to distinguish between good and bad, spirituality and wickedness.

Will we pass the test when we come to judgment? When we hear the words of our Saviour, "Well done thou good and faithful servant enter thou into the joys of our Lord", and He gives us a beautiful, shining, crown of salvation as a reward for our efforts, I am sure we will be more thrilled and blessed than if we had not put forth the effort.

Adam and Eve chose, but made the wrong choice. By their choice they brought the Adamic sin upon all mankind. We still have that power of choice today, almost six thousand years later. God gave each of us a spirit, soul, and body, a trinity, when He made us. The Spirit belongs to God and will return to Him. The soul is ours. Our minds and actions will determine that soul's destiny, either Heaven or hell. The cold, lifeless body will be laid away until the resurrection day at the beginning of the millennium for the righteous, Then our three components will again unite.

The wicked will not be resurrected until the thousand years are expired. Then the souls of man brought from hell will again unite with a resurrected body. That body will be thrown into the lake of fire, which is the second death. That is where the beast and the false prophet will be for ever and ever. Rev. 20:10.

Now is the appointed time to make the right choices of the things, we want here and hereafter, so those things will be given us in eternity. The idolater, liar, thief, hater of God, the ungodly, the proud, the adulterer and such like would not be happy in Heaven. The Bible bears out that the evil will still be practicing their evil in eternity. Rev. 2:22. There will not be any converts or changed lives there, there will be no Gospel preaching, no Holy Spirit to convict and convert, just

more of the same wicked, earthly, desires in the deadly flames that neither dull nor go out in the millennium to come. Jude in verse 6 writes that the angels who choose to follow Lucifer from Heaven have for the millenniums been chained and confined in a dark abyss awaiting the judgment. Rev. 20:10. Satan may be incarcerated in the same bottomless pit while Christ rules the world for one thousand years. Read Rev. 20.

Now is the time to make our choices for the Lord. Now is the day of salvation. When the day of redemption is past, it will be too late. We will have to abide by what we chose during our lifetime here. What are we seeking? What is the god that we think more of than the Holy One, who died that we might live eternally with Him and all the redeemed of the earth? The hour is late. We have little time left to get ready and to be tried and proven faithful. Starting today, we can never get too close to our Lord and Master, but we easily can be to far away and lost. It is going to take determination and perseverance in the days and years ahead to be worthy of being included with the wise virgins in the rapture of the Bride of Christ. The anti-Christ and those who follow him are already working overtime now. As time goes on they will be putting in more and more effort to dethrone Christ in the hearts of as many men as they possibly can. The Bible says that the very elect would be deceived if it were possible. We must be well-learned and immovable in our Biblical lives.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 15, 1936

STANDARD

B. F. Masterson

The word "standard," in the sense that I use it in this article, is defined by Webster: "That which is established as a rule or model by authority." Looking at it from a Biblical viewpoint, there is a principle involved, something fundamental at bottom. Isaiah, when referring to the future church, said, "I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles and set up my standard." (Isa. 49:22.) Jesus Christ, when on the earth, set up a number of standards which were founded on the rock, (the Word of God, which is the truth, and its authority can not be questioned), such as "non-conformity," "peace," "patience," "the cross," "temperance," "love," "non-resistance," "purity," "honesty," "humanity," and so forth. All of the negatives to either one of these standards may not be named in the New Testament for several reasons. One

is, they are too numerous—the Book could not contain them; and another is, the conditions and customs in society changes. There may be unbecoming customs and manners practiced in our time that were not known in Christ's time. There are some church members who excuse or justify themselves of their unbecoming conduct because the Bible is silent on such conduct. But there is a principle established at the bottom of each standard which will not leave an honest person spiritually discerned, in the dark. The Holy Spirit will guide in the way of the principles taught in the Bible.

For instance, under the standard of “non-resistance.” There are many ways whereby a child of God may be insulted besides being smitten on the right cheek, but the principle is established in the illustration. Here is where the Holy Spirit functions in His office to enlighten the child of God and to lead him, as Jesus said, “When the Spirit of truth will come, He will guide you into all truth.” It depends on what principle is involved, if the matter is named in so many words in the Bible or not. If the child of God will heed the guidance of the Holy Spirit, he will not become involved in sin.

I will not discuss each of these standards named above at this time, but we will take up the standard of “non-conformity.” The reason it is foremost on my mind is because it is stressed so strongly in the New Testament, and is so unpopular with the majority of church-goers, and so seldom referred to in the pulpit. To such, Jesus says, “Ye are they which justify yourselves before men, but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.” Can you name anything that is more highly esteemed than fashionable dress? There are thousands today who, professing to worship the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, bow in devout praise and adoration at the shrine of fashionable dress. It is worldliness.

“Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” (James 4:4.) That is a clear declaration, which cannot be misunderstood. The churches, which in the years that are past preached and practiced non-conformity in dress, and then later ignored it, went pell-mell into worldliness and cast discipline to the winds, winked at dancing, parties, card playing, attending shows, decked with jewelry, painting the face, cutting the hair, and discarding the prayer covering.

This picture is not over-drawn. Such conduct is bringing reproach on the church, and proves disloyalty to Christ who is the perfect Model of His disciples. Brethren, if we claim the Bible as our creed, and fail to teach and practice the standard of non-conformity, our

claim is not well-founded.

A plain, modest appearance for Christ's sake is not the only way to show our loyalty to the standard of non-conformity. We manifest it in a chaste conversation, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." (Matt. 12:24.) "For where the treasure is, there will the heart be also." (Matt. 6:21.) A vain and idle and foolish and empty conversation is conclusive evidence that there is a worldly heart within.

Flattering lips, a whispering tongue, idle words, foolish jesting, backbiting, talebearing, railing, reproaching, blasphemy, falsehood, and slander, are the fruits of a heart completely under the dominion of the world, and show no sign of being a standard-bearer in the kingdom of God. All such conduct contrary to non-conformity, I call negative. There is no positive without negative, and they are innumerable. Therefore I said the Book cannot contain them all. The picture shows were not in existence when Christ was introducing His doctrine. These shows are one of the most damnable means to lead children astray imaginable. It is said that they are instructive. Yes, but far more destructive of character. They were invented, and are operated, for the money that is in them, hence they are used to gratify the lust of the patrons. And the church member will excuse himself because it is not forbidden in the Bible, therefore it gives a license to attend. Then the parents want to know why it is that there are so many young criminals. Why, they are schooled into it in the shows.

There is a move on foot to renovate the movies. How can a thing be cleansed when it is rotten from top to bottom? "Wherefore, if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (touch not; taste not; handle not; which all are to perish with the using) after the commandments and doctrines of men?" (Col. 2:20-21.)

Space does not permit the discussion of the use of vain and empty literature, participation in the sinful pleasures of the world, the identification with worldly organizations, and many other things in direct opposition to the clean-cut command: "Be not conformed to this world" which was declared by one who was ordained by Christ to be an apostle to the Gentiles, one whose authority cannot be questioned. But a worldlyminded person cannot comply with these requirements. He adds, "But be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Right here fit in the words of the late R. H. Miller in a booklet written about fifty years ago on this subject, as follows:

"'Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.' The understanding 'darkened by the god of this world' must be enlightened by truth. The conscience defiled by sin must become educated and

purified by truth. The affections which are earthly, and groveling and sordid and sensual, must become elevated and heavenly and spiritual and holy, and the perverse and rebellious will, which asks, 'Who is the Lord that I should be mindful of Him?' must become so thoroughly subordinated to the Divine authority that its constant breathings are, 'Speak Lord, for thy servant heareth.' 'Every thought,' even should be 'brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.' (II Cor. 10:5.)

Call this regeneration, or the begetting again 'by the incorruptible seed of the Word of God,' it is a necessary qualification of Christian character and condition of life and immortality. Here, 'If any man be in Christ he is a new creature.' (II Cor. 5:17.) But since through transformation is not only internal but also external, it must not only be felt experimentally, but exhibited practically. In all the metamorphoses of the universe, the transformations do not only effect the nature and disposition, but also the conduct and appearance. The worm is not only changed to the butterfly in character and disposition, but it acts like a butterfly. So every Christian grace or virtue developed in the renewed mind as naturally exhibits itself in the conduct and life, as that the sun shines, or the fountain flows, or the earth vegetates."

WAIT

Desperately, helplessly, longingly I cried:
Quietly, patiently, lovingly God replied.
I pled and I wept for a clue to my fate,
And the Master so gently said, "Child, you must wait."
"Wait, you say, wait," my indignant reply.
"Lord, I need answers, I need to know why!
Is your hand shortened, or have you not heard?
By faith I have asked and am claiming your Word.
My future and all to which I can relate
Hangs in the balance and YOU tell me WAIT?
I'm needing a 'Yes', a go-ahead sign,
Or even a 'No' to which I can resign.
And Lord, you promised that if we believe
We need but to ask and we shall receive.
And Lord, I've been asking and this is my cry:
I'm weary of asking! I need a reply."

Then quietly, softly I learned my fate
As my Master replied once again, "You must wait."

So I slumped in my chair, defeated and taut and

Grumbled to God, "So I'm waiting, for what?"

He seemed then to kneel, and His eyes wept with mine,
And He tenderly said, "I could give you a sign.
I could shake the heavens and darken the sun,
I could raise the dead, cause the mountains to run.
All you seek I could give, and pleased you would be,
You would have what you want, but you wouldn't know Me.
You'd not know the depth of My love for each saint;
You'd not know the power that I give to the faint;
You'd not learn to see through clouds of despair;
You'd not learn to trust just by knowing I'm there;
You'd not know the joy of resting in Me
When darkness and silence were all you could see;
You would never experience that fullness of love
As the peace of My Spirit descends like a dove;
You would know that I give and save, for a start,
But you'd not know the depth of the beat of My heart,
The glow of My comfort, late in the night,
The faith that I give when you walk without sight,
The depth that's beyond getting just what you asked
Of an infinite God, who makes what you have LAST.
You ever would know, should your pain quickly flee
What it means that 'My grace is sufficient for thee!'
Yes, your dreams for that loved one overnight could come true,
But oh the loss, if I lost what I'm doing to you!

So, be silent, My child, and in time you will see
That the greatest of gifts is to get to know Me.
And though oft may My answers seem terribly late:
My most precious answer of all is still: WAIT."

-Author Unknown

Submitted by Sister Clara M. Walter

THE NETHINIM - (GIVEN ONES)

Ezra 8:20, "Also of the Nethinim, whom David and the princes had appointed for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinim all of them were expressed by name."

ARTICLE FROM PICTORIAL BIBLE DICTIONARY, published by the Southwestern Co.

"NETHINIM, a large group of temple servants, mentioned only in the later records of the Old Testament. In a sense, all the Levites were "Nethinim" (Num. 8:19), for they were given by the Lord as a gift

to Aaron and his sons for the divine service. At the conquest of Midian (Num. 31) the prey was divided between the warriors and the congregation and a fixed proportion was "given" for the Lord's service (vss. 40, 42, 47) of which 32 were "Nethinim" to the priests and 320 to the Levites in general. Later when the men of Gibeon deceived Israel by claiming to have come a great distance (Josh. 9) they were allowed to live but were made "hewers of wood and drawers of water." The 392 descendants of these two groups, called "Nethinim" only in I Chronicles 9:2 and in Ezra and Nehemiah, came back with Israel after the Babylonian captivity (Ezra 2:43-58). At Ezra's return he lists 220 Nethinim (Ezra 8:20) and explains that David had appointed these for the service of the Levites."

The name "Nethinim" means "given ones." In John 6:37-39 we read, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me: and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all that he hath given me I shall lose nothing, but shall raise it up again at the last day." While John 8:9 makes it perfectly clear that our Lord was specifically referring to the original eleven in a physical as well as spiritual way, we believe that in a sense all those born again by the precious blood of Jesus Christ are given as a gift by the Father to the Son for His supreme sacrifice on the cross of Calvary. The phrase "and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out," says to us that although the Father gave unto the Son those who came as a gift, the individuals still had the opportunity to refuse to be a gift as well as receive the gift of eternal life.

According to the Bible dictionary "in a sense, all the Levites were Nethinim." In I Peter 2:5 we read, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." The Brethren, along with Protestant groups, have always affirmed the priesthood of all believers. According to some Bible scholars much wiser than ourselves, Nicolaitanism (found in the book of Revelation) was a heresy that exalted the clergy over the laity. This is one of the reasons we never refer to our ministers as "Reverend." The other one is that this name is reserved for God according to Holy Scripture. We do not even refer to those who hold the office of Elder or Minister as "clergy." Although we respect them, as God commands we should, we also recognize that they are mere, mortal men with weaknesses the same as we possess. We are all under the ultimate authority of God, no matter, if we hold the title of Elder, minister, deacon or merely that of member.

As God leads the Church we must be willing to submit to the will it expresses as it makes decisions. However, this does not mean that we can ever compromise personal convictions God has laid on our heart.

In Ezra 8:20 we find the Nethinim being appointed for the service of the Levites. In Philippians 2:6-7 we read, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." Unlike the Lord Jesus Christ, we do not like to think of ourselves as servants. At least, not deep down in our hearts. To be a servant means that we are subject to someone. We seldom like to take advice although we may often ask for it.

The Levites can be seen as the Church. As we have already said, we must be willing to submit to the decisions made. At one time submission was expected and those who refused to submit were disciplined in one manner or another. This is fast becoming a thing of the past.

Anything that is labeled "tradition" is being thrown out. If we truly had a submissive spirit we would not have lost many of things we did that set us apart from the world. Each of us must search our hearts to see how much change we can submit to before we depart from a group. We are not in favor of church splits and believe most of the time pride, not submission, is the cause. But lines must be drawn.

The Bible tells us "all of them were expressed by name." God loves us each as individuals. We must love one another the same way. God will also judge each of us individually, not as a church.

Our greatest obedience must be to the Word of God. Very few groups demand this anymore. This is the dangerous part of naming historical practices "tradition." Soon Bible teaching becomes "tradition," that is optional. Let us, like the Nethinim, be servants of our God and the Church.

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THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF JESUS' FOLLOWERS

THEY THAT LIVE GODLY IN CHRIST JESUS SHALL SUFFER
PERSECUTION.

II Timothy 3:12

MATTHEW was killed by the sword in Ethiopia.

MARK was dragged to death in Alexandria, Egypt.

LUKE was hanged on an olive tree in Greece.

JAMES THE GREATER was beheaded in Jerusalem.

JAMES THE LESS was thrown from the pinnacle of the temple and then beaten to death.

ANDREW was bound to a cross, but preached until he died.

THOMAS was run through with a lance in India.

JUDE was shot to death with arrows.

SIMON ZELOTES was crucified in Persia

MATTHIAS was first stoned then beheaded.

PETER was crucified with his head downward.

PAUL was beheaded in Rome.

II Timothy 2:12, "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him, if we deny him, he also will deny us."

Submitted by the late Paul R. Myers

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Bible Our Neighbors Read

J. H. Moore

The daily lives of the church members are about the only Bible some people ever read. Instead of reading the Acts of the Apostles, they read the "Acts of the Church Members." They may not know much about the Gospel according to St. Matthew, but they can sit for hours and tell what they know about the "Gospel according to Deacon Jones." They may never have heard of Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, but they can quote by the hour from the living epistles too well known in their immediate neighborhood. The New Testament Book of Revelation is a mystery to them, but not so with the revelations about the different church members they meet almost daily.

You quote Scriptures to these people and they will quote ten times as much from some of the "living epistles" in their own neighborhood. What care they for the Gospel according to St. Mark when the Gospel according to Deacon Smith contradicts it at every point? You may refer them to the Acts of the Apostles to show them how people were converted. They simply refer you to the acts of the church members, to show to you how many of the present converts now live. Talk to them about the Bible. They cannot understand it but they can understand the conduct of a half-dozen church members when they do not live up to their profession. And when the minister quotes from the Book of Revelation, concerning the end of the world and the destiny of the wicked, they cannot help thinking about the revelations that have just come to them regarding the conduct of this, that and the other church member. Let the minister preach a sermon on the purity of the heart, or a heart work, and probably one-third of his

hearers will begin thinking about some hearts whose purity they gravely doubt. Tell the people about the importance of plainness in attire. Quote them Scripture on the subject and they will begin quoting from the "Acts of the Church Members" on the same question. The quotations will not harmonize, and in the minds of not a few a quotation from the latter will go farther than one from the former. And so on to the end of the list.

Well, what is to be done? There is no denying the quotation from the "Gospel according to Deacon Jones," or from the epistle, known and read of all men. The facts are there. There is no chance for a revision. These late walking gospels and living epistles stand in the way of the people. They point one way, and the New Testament points another. Here is a problem, and about the only way to solve it is to bring about some new and radical conversions. Jesus told Peter, "When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." That is the doctrine we need to teach to every man and woman who does not live and walk orderly before the Lord. If sinners will pay more attention to the lives of the members than to the New Testament itself, and we know they do, then we must give them a better class of members to read. They must have better living epistles, and acts of members that will not mislead them. We need members who can sincerely say, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." Of course we do not want members to talk just that way, but they ought to be such that even a sinner could point to one of them and say, "Behold an Israelite, indeed, in whom is no guile." We should have men and women who are going on to perfection,—people who can be examples to others.

With people of this class we can accomplish the more good, for the sinner could then go on reading the Gospel according to Bro. Jones and Sister Smith, and be benefited. After reading the New Testament a heathen at one time said, "The Book is all right," and then added, "The Book is better than the Christian." The trouble lies in the fact that we live too far below the Book, and that weakens our influence. Not long since we conversed with a physician on religious subjects. He remarked, "If the Christian people would live up to their profession they would soon have all such fellows as myself in the church, and it would not take a revival to bring us." While this condition will not exonerate the doctor at the judgment, it does show how much the cause of Christ is crippled by those who do not walk blameless before God and man.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1996

June 2 - The Light of the World - John 8:12-32.

1. Explain what Jesus called "The Light of Life."
2. Why could Jesus say "I am not of this world?"

June 9 - Children of the Devil - John 8:33-47.

1. Whom did Jesus mean was the real Father of the Jews?
2. Who hears God's Words?

June 16 - "Greater Than Abraham?" - John 8:48-59.

1. What promise did Jesus attach to the keeping of His "saying"?
2. How could Abraham have seen the day of Jesus?

June 23 - "I Was Blind, Now I See" - John 9:1-7.

1. What does sin have to do with physical sickness and suffering?
2. Explain the importance of obedience in the healing of the Blind Man.

June 30 - Blindness Revealed - John 9:8-41.

1. Why did the Jews refuse to accept the confession of the Healed Man?
2. Why did Jesus openly tell the Healed Man that He was the Son of God?

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR
JUNE 1996**

June 2 - Soldiers - Eph. 6:13-18, I Thess. 5:4-11, II Tim. 2:1-4.

1. How can we be children of the Light?
2. What hardness may a good soldier of Jesus Christ have to endure?

June 9 - Our Principles - I Peter 2:1-25.

1. What did Peter mean when he said "offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ"?
2. Explain how the word "conversation" means more than talking.

June 16 - Consistency - Phil. 1:25-30, I Thess. 4:9-12, I Tim. 3:7, James 3:12-18, II Peter 3:11-14.

1. How do you "walk honestly toward them that are without"?
2. When "all these things shall be dissolved" what will be left?

June 23 - FATHER'S DAY - Mark 9:14-27, Luke 8:41-42, 49-56.

1. Explain the importance of faith in the life of a father.
2. Why did not Jesus want the parents to tell others about Him raising their daughter from the dead?

June 30 - Monuments - Jer. 1:17-19, Gal. 2:8-10, Rev. 3:10-12.

1. How should our Christian life be like a "pillar"?
2. How can we become "a pillar in the temple of...God"?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 11

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE HAPPY HOME

Happy the home, when God is there,
And love fills ev'ry breast;
Where one their wish, and one their pray'r,
And one their heav'nly rest.

Happy the home where Jesus' name
Is sweet to ev'ry ear;
Where children early lisp his fame
And parents hold him dear.

Happy the home where pray'r is heard,
And praise is wont to rise;
Where parents love the sacred Word,
And live but for the skies.

Lord! let us in our homes agree,
This blessed peace to gain;
Unite our hearts in love to thee,
And love to all will reign.

OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Read Colossians 3:17-23.

The Apostle Paul reminds the Colossians of the importance of their relationships. He, first, reminds them of their relationship with God. Next, he writes of their family relations. Finally, he writes of their relationships in the workplace. He encourages believers to develop these relationships to better their own lives and to be good examples for others who might be watching them. The unbelieving may be touched by the godly conduct of believers who practice these relationships.

It will not always be easy to maintain these relationships. Paul writes of a blessing for those who do these deeds as if they were doing them for God. If we viewed our service as directed toward God, we would have a loftier feeling about what we do. If we saw our service on a higher level than just plodding, dull, and half-hearted, we would find more joy in our Christian service. Paul emphasizes this admonition by virtually repeating it a few verses later. He admonishes us to do our deeds in the name of the Lord in a whole-hearted way.

This whole-hearted service is especially important in our closest relationships. We, often, take for granted those who are our dearest and closest companions. We may even serve others in the community better than those who share our homes. Our families deserve our best efforts, remembering that we serve them in the name of the Lord. When serving in His name, we are taking on His characteristics. We are doing in our poor way as He would do in a similar situation.

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The first relationship he deals with is marriage. Marriage was established in the Garden of Eden. It has had God's blessing throughout history. As with all Spiritual relationships there are boundaries that surround it. Spiritual qualifications must be observed to obtain God's blessings. He has ordained that one man and one woman without current, prior attachments could be joined together in this lifelong relationship. The relationship is not to be dishonored by adultery or other unrighteous behavior by either partner. Divorce is not the normal means of dissolving this relationship. Only death is to part the two so joined together.

To make this relationship work, an effort must be made by each partner. Writing first to the wives, he counsels them to be submissive to their husbands. This seems objectionable to some. This has nothing to do with equality. It is the establishment of a workable order within the family. Just as any organization needs a clearly defined head, the family also needs to have a head. The wife's submissive attitude, even when she knows better, can make the husband a more effective leader. Her talents, needed for a successful marriage and family life, often, can be delivered more appropriately as a helper than as a head. God has established this pattern for His own purpose, so it can not be bad to submit and fulfill His pattern.

The husband is never commanded to be a tyrant, just because he has been appointed the head. Instead he is to love and nurture his wife. She would be more willing to submit if he would show her the kind of tenderness he did when courting her. He should show her how appreciative he is of her labors and trials. A husband, who fails to show his wife the depths of his love, hardly deserves her submissive service.

Likewise, a father as the head of the family is not to be a dictator over his children. While he must maintain strict discipline, he must be sure that he does not go overboard in punishment of the children. Many children, who are strictly controlled while growing up, become rebellious when they are not under their father's direct control. A father's wrath may do more harm than good if it discourages his children. They become discouraged from never being able to please him, so they give up.

Children need to be obedient. It is not something that they acquire when at a certain age. Their progress may be slow and nearly imperceptible at times, but as they are given godly instructions and examples, they will improve. They need to know that when disobedient, they are not only disobeying their parents but also God. Children need opportunities to show they can be obedient.

Paul writes instructions concerning employees and the employers.

There are responsibilities for each in this relationship. The employee needs to give his best effort to further the employer's well being. He should give a full measure of service. The employer needs to provide a decent wage, a safe workplace and treat his workers as God treats His subjects. If both would use the "Golden Rule" as their guide, there would be no labor strife. A job should be more than just earning money, it should be a way to serve people. An employer needs to look at more than the "bottom line."

All these relationships require an effort. That effort should be given as if the relationship were with God. Actually, it is!

M.C.Cook

THE CHRISTIAN AND PATRIOTISM

Colossians 1:12-14, "Giving thanks unto the father which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."

Hebrews 11:13-16, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."

Definition of Patriotism: "love and loyalty or zealous support of one's own country."

Only twice have the ravages of war been found in the towns and countryside of the United States of America. In the minds of some both of these wars were "holy wars" fought with the blessing of God. The first of these wars, the Revolutionary War, brought with it a new definition of "Patriotism." No longer was it a love and loyalty or zealous support of one's own country but the desire to form a new country. While religious freedom is the reason quoted by many, the true reason for this war of rebellion was taxation without representation.

The second war, the Civil War, was supposedly fought over the issue of slavery. However, the true issue was states' rights. Both of these wars also brought the issue of the civil rights of citizens into focus.

Many of our Brethren forefathers suffered during both of these conflicts because of their refusal to choose sides. They appreciated the freedoms proposed by the leaders of the Constitutional form of government that was declared to be a new experiment. But they also recognized that the Bible forbade them to take part in taking human life and to rebel against organized government. Likewise they opposed slavery, forbidding their members to own slaves, but realized that blood shed by fellow citizens of a country (and perhaps even fellow brothers in the Lord) was not God's answer to the problem.

Beyond the fact of opposition to taking of human life was the conviction that they had a citizenship in a higher kingdom. We are convinced that the earthly Church, as a whole, has lost sight of this Scriptural truth. Many are looking forward to being a part of the heavenly kingdom when they die or the Lord returns. We will most certainly experience it in a perfect way at these times. The Bible clearly teaches that all the blood-bought born again are right now a part of this Kingdom. Our complete allegiance is to be to God and His Holy Word. Our Patriotism is not found in the flag of a nation but in the blood splattered cross of our Lord. Such things as racial prejudice becomes impossible to those who love as our Lord commanded us to love.

In many Church circles the Constitution has replaced the Bible in importance. Individual rights are declared over "thus saith the Lord." This has both political and personal implications. We must obey God rather than man, but we are to be obedient to the laws of the land that are not clearly contrary to the Word of God. Many declare their right to ignore the standards set forth by God on such issues as dress, personal appearance and worldly amusements.

Like those of the Old Testament, who were part of the faith, we should desire a better country. They had not received the promise in their lifetime (they were not Christians) but gained it at the death of Christ on Calvary. (We, personally, believe they are the 144,000 of Revelation 7.) We do not have to wait. Let us be true "Christian Patriots" and be faithful to the kingdom of our Lord.

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THOUGHTS ON DISTRICT MEETING

This year we were blessed with a wonderful district meeting. The Brethren brought forth the Word with majesty and power. There were no queries and no disputation. A wonderful spirit prevailed.

One thing happened, however, that was worthy of note. This one thing has bothered me ever since. We closed up another meetinghouse. Another congregation has gone by the wayside. We are very sorry to see it go. We have always been of the opinion that the meetinghouse should remain open, regardless of the number attending. We realize that this is not always possible. In the Jewish Passover Seder an extra place is always set at the table in case the Messiah would come. Our meeting places are a testimony to an unchurched community. Believe me, they take notice if these houses of worship are being attended or not.

We must ask the question, "Have I done all that I could so that the Word could continue forth in this area?" I realize now that I never sat in the meetinghouse that recently closed. Once, about twenty years ago, we drove past it on the way to another place of worship. We trust that everyone else's record is better than our own.

Revelation 3:2 tells us to, "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die:..." We should not be satisfied with meetinghouses closing, and the lessening of membership numbers, and the seeming lack of interest on the part of most people. If Christ Jesus dwells within us then we should, as the scripture says, compel them to come in. All people should be afforded the opportunity to meet the Saviour. We cannot be satisfied that the specter of easy-believism is swallowing up thousands, giving them a shallow worthless, do-nothing "gospel." As Paul says in I Corinthians 12:31, "...and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." There is nothing to be ashamed of in Christ, unless we are not living up to OUR potential.

We, if we are members of a local assembly, are responsible each Sunday to be in our places on time, prepared and worshipping God. Personalities and petty differences add strain to the worship experience. If we come to church for any other reason than to worship, learn, and fellowship, we add further strain to the worship experience.

We say all these things because, like the Brethren of old, we desire to see the Church grow and prosper and be a testimony to the world: a city that sitteth upon a hill - that cannot be hid.

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 1, 1936

CONFESSION

L. W. Beery

The doctrine of confession of sins, like so many other plain gospel teachings, is no longer popular with many church people; nevertheless it has its place in the plan of salvation in connection with repentance. We earnestly contend that in order to get right with our God and our fellowmen that we must confess our sins. We insist on this because the written Word teaches it. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Rom 10:10.)

The wise man Solomon speaking from experience uttered this solemn truth, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Often have we seen these truths verified in our own experience and even though we see the vanity and folly of trying to hide our sins from God and our fellowmen so many are inclined, even in the churches to try to cover up and hide their ungodliness and live under the burden of sin rather than confess and have the burden lifted.

When men are truly convicted of sin they feel the need of confession. Under the preaching of John the Baptist those who were convicted of sin "were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins." Under the preaching of Paul many were convicted of sin "and many that believed, came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds." (Acts 19:18.) Sin is a burden that weighs heavily upon the guilty party and confession plays an important part in removing this burden. We have read the testimony of men who were guilty of murder who claimed that they could get no relief from the awful burden of their sin until they confessed and made a clean breast of the whole affair. We have all had some experiences along this line in our own lives if we but stop and consider. How often in the past have we dealt falsely or unjustly with a loved one, a neighbor, a friend or perhaps a brother or sister in the church. After the wrong had been done and we were conscious of it how the matter did weigh down upon us, what a burden it was to bear. We felt constrained to go to the party that we had wronged and make the matter right. Following this impulse we went and confessed our fault, then how much better we felt. Has this not been the experience of each one of us?

One of the common errors of the human family is to neglect doing the things which we know we ought to do. So often we will leave a matter drag along for days, weeks or many years, which would only

take a few moments or hours of time to correct, knowing all the time that the matter ought to be attended to at once. Many put off confessing their sins until the cold hand of death is upon them and then it is often too late, for we may be unable to correct matters in a way which we can have the relief so much needed and desired. Somehow so many lack the courage or moral stamina necessary to face the one who has been wronged, with an openhearted confession, yet it isn't nearly so hard as carrying a load of guilt continually. The enemy of our souls is only too glad to discourage us but let us not allow him to make life miserable for us by keeping us under sin when the Lord has provided a way of escape.

A wonderful promise is given to us on this matter which we find recorded in I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." It is certain that if we do our part in confessing our sins and correcting matters that the Lord will do his part in forgiving and cleansing us. May we take courage and lay hold on these wonderful promises that we may be cleansed and fitted for life here and in the world to come.

HELP SAVE AMERICA

Fred Pruitt

Pray for the President and Legislators.

The United States as a nation is the richest country in the world, having resources to such an extent that we could practically live within ourselves if need be. The wealth of this country runs into the billions. While the government may not be perfect and officials make mistakes, yet we believe our form of government is the best in the world and allows more justice to citizens in general than any other form of government.

The records show that this nation has never been whipped nor beaten to her knees by any other nation although a number have tried it.

Although all these good things can be said of this nation and much more could be truthfully told; yet we, as a nation of people, should not boast, but humbly thank God for His past favors. If we boast at all, let it be in the Lord only for he it is that has favored us and allowed us to prosper and become strong in a natural sense. The same God of love and mercy that has favored us in the past can withdraw His power of favor and soon the nation would wither, blast, and be overrun by wicked people who would slaughter us, subdue us, and bring us into slavery and abject poverty.

It is everywhere evident that this nation as a people in a general

sense has forgotten God. The wickedness of the wicked is great in the land. The majority of professed Christians have only self-righteousness, and they travel on, wrapping their self-righteous rags around them with a lofty air, worshipping their fine church buildings and large numbers more than the "Giver of all things." The professing people are cursed with idol worship. They worship "MY CHURCH" and the good things that God gives rather than the giver. They do not seem to be careful or diligent to examine themselves in the light of the sacred word or the life of Christ to see how much they need to repent and forsake, but seem satisfied and contented just to belong to some man-made church.

God's written word reads, "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion." Amos 6:1. The people are trusting in the mountain of Samaria (in this country) rather than in the heavenly Mount Zion, Jerusalem which is far above, the mother of all truly spiritually living people. (Gal. 4:26.)

Those in touch with the living God ought to pray thus:

Pray first for those in authority, for the legislators, and rulers of our nation. Read I Tim. 2, first few verses.

Our president and body of senators and legislators have a great responsibility resting upon them to guide the affairs of our nation to a peaceful end. They need our prayers rather than our criticism, for they do need wisdom from God. They need to fear God and humble their hearts before Him, and seek wisdom from the Creator of all things that exist that our nation may not perish.

Pray that God will talk to the hearts of the people and teach them to humble down before God, and not only repent and ask God to forgive them of their sins, but that they will look to God for grace to forsake sin. God will have mercy on people that will humble their hearts in godly sorrow for sin and forsake it that His righteousness may be in them.

We read in Prov. 28:13, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." It is not enough just to repent and confess our sins; we must forsake them if we expect mercy at the hand of God.

We should pray for the young boys who have been drafted into the army for training to kill others—both in this nation and in other nations, for their souls are all precious in the sight of God—they certainly need the prayers of the righteous. Pray for those in the hospitals who were wounded and crippled in the past war, and for the mothers whose hearts are broken and bleeding because of sons who fell on the battlefield or were crippled and maimed for life. Pray for the war lords in other nations and in our nation, that God will weaken them and

make them afraid to launch another bloody war with "garments rolled in blood."

Some may say, "What is the use to pray? What is going to be, will be." Such reasoning as that is not sound, neither is it scriptural. When the Hebrew nation would humble themselves and repent, God would have mercy and favor them again. When God had said to Hezekiah, "Set thine house in order for thou shalt die and not live," Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and wept sore and prayed unto God. God saw his tears and heard his cry and added fifteen years to his life. God's word through Jonah to that wicked city, Nineveh, was "Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown." But when they heard the pronouncement of God's wrath upon them, they began to repent and the King published throughout Nineveh a decree saying, "Let man and beast be covered with sackcloth and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from His fierce anger that we perish not." Jonah 3:8-9.

"And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way: and God repented of the evil that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not." God will be like that to us as a nation if we will repent and turn from evil as they did. James says, "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16.

Peter says, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." 1 Pet. 3:12. If this nation will repent and forsake their sins and become righteous, God's ears will be open to our cries and America will be saved.

Brothers and sisters, let us pray for our President, Legislators, and the nation as a whole that we may have peace in the land; for PRAYER DOES CHANGE THINGS.

Selected by Dan Kaufman

MY MASTER'S FACE

I had walked life's way with an easy tread,
Had followed where pleasure and comforts led,
Until one day in a quiet place
I met the Master face to face.

With station and rank and wealth for my goal,
Much thought for my body, but none for my soul,
I had entered to win in life's mad race
When I met the Master face to face.

I had built my castles and reared them high,
With their towers had pierced the blue of the sky;
I had sworn to rule with an iron mace,
When I met the Master face to face.

I met Him and knew Him and blushed to see
That His eyes, full of sorrow, were fixed on me;
And I faltered and fell at His feet that day,
When my castles melted and vanished away.

Melted and vanished and in their place
Naught else did I see but the Master's face
And I cried aloud, "Oh, make me meek
To follow the steps of Thy wounded feet."

My thought is now for the souls of men,
I have lost my life to find it again,
E'er since one day in a quiet place
I met the Master face to face.

-Author Unknown

Submitted by the late Paul R. Myers

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Sunday Dinner

J. H. Moore

Once upon a time, after preaching to a most attentive congregation, the preacher's wife said I should go to their home for dinner. The drive was a pleasant one, just as most country drives are in midsummer. The sister was not long about preparing the meal, nor did she seem tired and worn out when the guests were shown their seats in the dining-room. After thanks, I glanced over the table, and noticed that, while there was plenty on the table, there were but two warm dishes to be seen. All the other dishes were cold. The food was well prepared, and everything, table linen and all, seemed neat and tidy.

The wife took her seat at the table and enjoyed the meal with her guests. There was no passing from the table to the kitchen to bring more to eat. There was no serving of special dishes at the close. There was no urging of the visitors to eat several kinds of cake, a few pieces of pie and a dish or two of rich dessert after we thought we had eaten a fair meal. It was all on the table, one plain cake and the

other dishes referred to. We ate and talked. So did the husband, wife and guests. It was simply a good, plain, substantial Sunday dinner,—a dinner that had not cost much, did not take long to prepare and one that answered its purpose in every particular.

I enjoyed the meal, the conversation and the simplicity of the occasion. After it was all over I felt that I had not been the cause of a preacher's wife desecrating the Lord's Day by overtaxing her strength to get a big dinner for the visiting preacher and the other company. Then I fell to wondering why other women cannot get into the habit of preparing sensible, wholesome and economical Sunday dinners. I wonder why it cannot be arranged for the women to have some rest on the Lord's Day, even if they do happen to have company. Here were only two freshly-cooked dishes, and one of them I did not need to touch, for there was plenty on the table besides, to satisfy a hungry man. There were also a few cold dishes and they were palatable. Lemonade took the place of tea and coffee, and, as a rule, makes a more wholesome drink.

I thought, Why should the woman make a Sunday slave of herself in order to get her visitors a much larger meal than they really need? Why must she work an hour or two over the hot stove, then remain on her feet, waiting on the table, while her friends are eating; when they retire, sit down alone, warm and tired, eat a hasty dinner, and then use up the rest of her strength cleaning up the dishes and table, and make herself so tired that she will not be in a condition to enjoy her company?

I asked again, Is this the way to treat the hard-working wives or servants either? Do the people of God, who have much to say about Gospel simplicity, want to encourage this way of living? Do they want their influence to be cast on that side of the Sunday question? If we believe in the simple and sensible life, why not practice it on Sunday as well as other days? Why should sensible Christian women attempt to excel each other with big Sunday dinners? Then, to think of it, some of them stay at home from church just to cook an elaborate dinner for company!

The better way is the simple meal that requires but little work. Two or three warm dishes ought to be enough. A few cold dishes, prepared the day before, will help. Let no one say the table was made to groan beneath its burden of rich food. Offer the guests plain nourishment, serve it in a simple way, give the good wife a chance to rest and enjoy the meal as well as her company, and in the end God will be glorified and people will not so often be called on to make a god of their appetite. We insist on simplicity in our lives, in our attire

and our everyday life. Now let us be consistent enough to practice at our Sunday dinners what we preach.

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE SUPPORTS CREATION, NOT EVOLUTION

Randy Chase

CREATION: The belief that the universe was created by God, and that natural laws are not sufficient to explain the origin of all things.

EVOLUTION: The belief that the universe was not created by God, and that natural laws are sufficient to explain the origin of all things.

It is often stated in the news media and in school textbooks that evolution is a fact of science, or that it is the best theory to explain the origin of the universe and life. The truth of the matter is that there is no indisputable scientific evidence (such as from the fossil record) for evolution, nor do the known laws of nature (such as in physics, chemistry, biology, and also from mathematical probability) support evolution. Instead, all the indisputable facts of science and laws of nature support creation, or they are consistent with the belief in creation. These claims, along with all the claims of this tract, have been documented by the creation scientists Dr. Henry Morris (Ph.D. in Engineering) and Dr. Duane Gish (Ph.D. in Biochemistry).

In dealing with the origin of the universe, there are only three logical possibilities. These are:

1. The Universe is eternal.
2. The Universe emerged from nothing.
3. The Universe was created by God.

Now, in order to determine which one of these views is correct, we must figure out which one of them fits with the known laws that govern the physical universe. There are two well-established laws of physics that apply to the entire universe. They are the 1st and 2nd Laws of Thermodynamics.

(THE UNIVERSE IS NOT ETERNAL)

The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics teaches that the available energy for maintaining the universe is becoming more random and disorganized. Going along with this is the fact that the sun and stars are burning up.

If we apply this law to the origin of the universe, then this rules out any possibility that the universe is eternal. In other words, the fact that the available energy for maintaining the universe is becoming more random and disorganized and the fact that the sun and stars are burning up, require that the universe at some time in the past must have had a beginning, and therefore, it can not be eternal.

(THE UNIVERSE DID NOT EMERGE FROM NOTHING)

The 1st Law of Thermodynamics teaches that while the energy for maintaining the universe is becoming more random and disorganized, this energy does not cease to exist. This law is also known as the Law of Conservation of Energy—that is, while the matter and energy of the universe is being conserved, none of it is being created.

If then we apply this law to the origin of the universe, then this means that the universe could not have brought itself into existence, seeing how its processes are not of a creative nature, but merely conserve what is already there.

Also, this law along with the 2nd law, rules out any possibility that our present complex universe could have developed (or evolved) from a smaller and simpler universe or from a mass of matter and energy.

(THE UNIVERSE WAS CREATED BY GOD)

Having shown that the universe could not be eternal, nor that it could have emerged from nothing, we are left with only one logical explanation—namely, that it was brought into existence by the creative power of God.

The belief that God was the creator of the universe is the only view that fits with (and is required by) both the 1st and 2nd Laws of Thermodynamics. It is also worth noting that these two laws of the universe are in perfect agreement with what the Bible has said all along “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

According to the Bible, the God who created the universe, loves us, and has graciously provided for forgiveness of all our sins by the death and bodily resurrection of His son, Jesus Christ. (I Corinthians 15:1-8) As John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish (in hell), but have everlasting life (in heaven).”

-Selected

CHANGED LIVES

Religion is man-made; the gospel is God given. Religion is what man does for God; the gospel is what God has done for man. Religion is man's search for God; the gospel is God's search for man. Religion is man trying to climb the ladder of his own self-righteousness, with the hope of meeting God on the topmost rung; the gospel is God coming down the ladder of the incarnation of Jesus Christ and meeting us as sinners at the lowest rung. Religion is good views; the gospel is good news. Religion is good advice; the gospel is a glorious announcement. Religion takes a man and leaves him as

he is; the gospel takes a man as he is and makes him what he ought to be. Religion ends in an outer reformation; the gospel ends in an inner transformation. Religion whitewashes; the gospel washes white. Religion often becomes a farce; the gospel is always a force, the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes. There are many religions, but only one gospel.

Selected

OBITUARY

LARRY LEE AUNGST

Bro. Larry Lee Aungst of RR 3, Pine Grove, Pennsylvania passed from this life, Thursday morning, January 11, 1996. He was 46 years, 10 months.

Born in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, March 11, 1949 to Dory A. and Mae (Wolfe) Aungst, RR 3, Pine Grove, Pennsylvania. He was employed as a heavy equipment operator for Blaschak Coal Company, Mahanoy City. He was a member of Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church. He was baptized Sunday, October 22, 1995, which was one week before our Lovefeast. We were so grateful to have him attend.

Surviving in addition to his parents, are a daughter, Bobbie Jo Aungst, Asheboro, North Carolina; a sister, Donna Gogets, RR 3, Pine Grove, Pennsylvania; six brothers, Lloyd, Dean and David RR 3, Pine Grove, Pennsylvania; Landis, RR 1, Pine Grove, Pennsylvania; Dale RR 1, Bethel, Pennsylvania and Jeff, RR 2, Pine Grove, Pennsylvania; nieces and nephews.

Services were held, Tuesday, January 16, 1996 at 10:00 A.M. at the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church with Elder Rudy Shaffer, Bro. Scott Bross and Bro. Kenneth Wilkerson officiating. Interment at Hetzel's Cemetery, Pine Grove, Pennsylvania.

A precious one from us has gone
A voice we loved is stilled;
A place is vacant in our home,
Which never can be filled.

God in his wisdom has recalled,
The boon his love had given,
And though the body slumbers here,
The soul is safe in Heaven.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 12

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

ONLY

It was only a blossom,
Just the merest bit of bloom,
But it brought a glimpse of summer
To the little darkened room.

It was only a glad "good morning,"
As she passed along the way;
But it spread the morning's glory
Over the livelong day.

Only a song; but the music,
Though simply pure and sweet,
Brought back to better pathways
The reckless roving feet.

"Only," in our blind wisdom,
How dare we say at all?
Since the ages alone can tell us
Which is the great or small.

ELIJAH, ELISHA, AND THE SONS OF THE PROPHETS

When Elijah was taken up in the whirlwind to Heaven, his mantle fell to Elisha. Elisha, his long-time assistant, had persisted to go with Elijah as he traveled toward this place. At each stop along the way Elijah had suggested that Elisha stay there. Each time Elisha said he would not. He was not going to be left behind.

As Elijah's departure neared, he asked Elisha what he desired. Elisha could have asked many things. He could have asked for a memento to remember Elijah by. He could have asked for power to do certain things. These he did not ask for. He asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. This was beyond Elijah's power to give. It would have to come from God. Elisha did receive that Spiritual power, for he was able to see Elijah as he was taken up toward Heaven.

At each of the stops, along the way to the other side of the Jordan, were the sons of the prophets. These were younger men who had enlisted to help the Spiritual leaders of God's people. They were young people with a Spiritual insight and desire. They wished to serve although their field of service was limited. Elijah and Elisha traveled over much of the land, but these young men stayed in their particular areas. These sons of the prophets exercised as they were able. They were a buffer between the people and the heathen, idol worship that was so strong in that area. Elijah and Elisha could travel far, but their message was more powerful, because the sons of the prophets were in these various communities to remind the people of their leaders' words.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

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The arrangement of Elijah being supported and succeeded by Elisha, who in turned received the support of the sons of the prophets reminds us of the passing of the leaders of the Church. This can best be seen at General Conference. As the years go by, slowly, almost imperceptibly, the leadership of the Church changes. The Elijahs are followed by the Elishas. The sons of the prophets follow the Elishas.

The Elijahs are the older deacons, ministers and Elders who have borne the heat and the burden of the day for years. For decades they have been in the midst of the work of the Church. They have served their congregations well. They have served responsibly in their District activities. They have had an important role at General Conference. They have served as delegates. The Elders have served on Standing Committee. All have had their part in the public services. They have performed nobly and well. They have striven to follow the Spirit's direction as they made decisions that were not always easy or popular. They have tried to do what was best for the Church, that she might be found faithful at the Lord's return.

Right behind the Elijahs are the Elishas. They have served for a few years. They are beginning to take places of responsibility in the Church. They deeply honor the Elijahs. They wish to have the counsel of the Elijahs as long as possible. They see the difficult problems ahead that will need a double portion of the Spirit to solve. They have served for some time in their home congregations. They have served on some of the boards and committees, but they still are not the Elijahs in spirit and leadership. Their day will soon enough be here. They will wish that the Elijahs were still here to guide them in the decisions and activities that are theirs to make and to do.

The sons of the prophets are the young ministers and deacons who have lately taken up their responsibilities. They have been chosen to these positions as they have shown faithfulness and promise of future ability. They are learning not only how to proclaim the gospel, but also the procedures for handling the business of the Church. They will be the Elishas and Elijahs of the future. They have successes and failures before them. They are observers of the activities of the Elishas and Elijahs, preparing for their future service. They yield a valuable service while they are growing into the work that is before them.

Supporting the sons of the prophets are all the members who faithfully attend, serve and give. They are found in their accustomed place week in and week out. Out of these supporting members will in the future come more sons of the prophets.

The generations march on. Those who were the Elijahs years ago

have now passed from the scene, to be succeeded by their Elishas, who were followed by their sons of the prophets. As we look back, we can remember many of these faithful leaders of old. They have left us a wonderful heritage. It is for the Elijahs, Elishas, sons of the prophets and faithful members of today to carry on their work.

M.C.Cook

PRODUCE YOUR CAUSE

"Produce your cause, saith the Lord; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob." Isaiah 41:21.

Have you ever stood before a judge and spoke on behalf of someone else? Perhaps someone is accused of a wrong and you appear in court to testify on his behalf to bolster his character. People appear also to give an accused person an alibi, or simply to plead for mercy on his behalf. Moses, when he pled for Israel did that very thing. He brought forth his strong reason. He pled the cause of the people of God. Did he not say, punish me instead of them? Blot my name out of the book instead of their names? Did not faithful Abraham plead for Lot in Sodom? Did not Daniel plead on behalf of Israel as well?

It is my understanding that the longest prayer in the Bible is in John, chapter 17. It was Jesus praying for His disciples. He produced cause as to why they should be protected by the Father and Jesus brought forth strong reasoning as to why God should favor them.

After reading the scriptures, I have come to two basic conclusions as to why our prayers are not answered. First, we are not persistent enough. It is too easy to take it as God's will if our prayer is not answered immediately. If it concerns an unsaved loved one, we must persist, because God is not willing that any should perish. I read of one case where a woman prayed forty years for her son before he was saved. We must love the souls of men, as Jesus did. He wept much for souls. What are the souls of our children worth? Can we afford to stop praying for them?

Secondly, we are not specific enough. We know to produce our cause, but as our text reiterates, we must bring forth our strong reason. In the Psalms, in Lamentations, in Jeremiah, and in many other places the writers lay their souls bare before the Lord. We hesitate to do this, because we say that God knows all things, and He knows our hearts. Then, why are we ashamed to show God our hearts? Prayer requires time and sacrifice. Prayer also requires

complete honesty before God.

We must tell God everything. We cannot be afraid to do that. If we read carefully the seventeenth chapter of John we will see Jesus' soul laid bare before the Lord. In effect, He told the Lord that an answer to His prayer would honor and glorify Almighty God. Anytime a soul is saved the Lord is glorified. We may also have selfish reasons, but whatever the reason we must be steadfast in our praying and never give up.

The story is told of a young lady who had to carry water up a steep hill for over a mile every day. She knew of a dry well close by, and reading the scriptures and knowing how important water is, she found our text, Isaiah 41:21. She prayed to that end in a simple, childish way, and produced argument after argument as to why the well should be opened. Soon after she prayed she took a bucket to the well that up until then had been dry. It was overflowing with water. She had enough faith to take a bucket to the dry well. She was persistent and she was specific. She also believed that God would answer her prayer.

We have all the benefits that the Brethren of old had. We can pray and read the scriptures and be a witness for God. We can receive all the blessings of God that the early Church had, but we must not be surprised that we must put forth the same effort that they did. We cannot get to heaven on someone else's coattails. We must work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Unuttered or expressed,
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear;
The upward glancing of an eye,
When none but God is near.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air,
His watchword at the gate of death—
He enters heaven with prayer.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice
Returning from his ways,
While angels in their songs rejoice,

And say, "Behold, he prays!"

Brother Lynn H. Miller

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THE TWO STAFFS

Zechariah 11:7, 10,14, "...And I took unto me two staves; the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bands; and I fed the flock....And I took my staff, even Beauty, and cut it asunder, that I might break my covenant which I had made with all the people....Then I cut asunder mine other staff, even Bands, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel."

As we see it, God has given two staffs to His people. A staff can be used for protection and safety. However it can also be used as an instrument of chastisement and even destruction. In our lesson God has named the two staves Beauty and Bands. We see the staff of Beauty as representative of God's love, mercy and compassion. We see the staff of Bands as representative of God's law and judgment.

We thank God for His staff of Beauty. Without His divine love and compassion not one individual on the face of the earth would be able to claim the gift of eternal life. Not one of us is holy enough to satisfy the absolute holiness of God. Those who believe that they are beyond and above a sinful nature and possess sinless perfection in this life are only deluding themselves, in our humble opinion.

There are those who believe and teach that God's love is so encompassing that everyone will eventually be saved. The modern teaching goes beyond this. They teach that there is no Hell and no one is actually a sinner but merely suffers from a lack of self confidence, love and motivation. If this were true God would not have had to send the Lord Jesus Christ to earth to suffer for the sins of the world. Of course, the false shepherds deny the need of Christ's blood for salvation. As we read in verses 4 and 5 of this chapter "Thus saith the LORD my God; Feed the flock of the slaughter; Whose possessors slay them, and hold themselves not guilty: and they that sell them say, Blessed be the LORD; for I am rich: and their own shepherds pity them not."

A very controversial issue within the earthly church is God's dealing with His nation Israel. The popular teaching is that God's covenant with the nation Israel was unconditional. We, personally, believe that God's covenant with Israel was conditional and His most important specification was that they accept the Messiah that He

promised to send. Verse ten of our lesson states that God took the staff Beauty and cut it asunder that He might break the covenant He had with all the people. Then in verse eleven we read, "And it was broken in that day: and so the poor of the flock that waited upon me knew that it was the word of the LORD." The first century Church was made up primarily of Jews who accepted God's gift of the expected Messiah. There are also those who teach that once we are safely under the blood of Christ God's love will never cast us out. This is absolutely true. However like God's covenant with Israel, His covenant with us is conditional on the premise that we do not reject His gift of the Lord Jesus Christ. This can happen before or after we experience the cleansing of sin.

A great deal of the problem is, it seems, that most are eager to receive God's staff of Beauty but reject God's staff of Bands. The scripture says that God used both to feed the flock. Those who insist that God has requirements He expects of His children are labeled legalists in our day. These requirements are not simply rules and regulations to make life difficult for us but the desires of a Holy God who wants the best for us. We read that God cut asunder the staff of Bands that He might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel. At this time Judah, not Israel, was God's chosen. At a later time the two nations again became one and became the nation Israel. To break the brotherhood would seem like a terrible thing in our day. We must realize that this was not the true brotherhood of faith but the joining of manmade ideals. Previous to this we read, "...And I took the thirty pieces of silver and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD." This is a picture of Judas. Like him the modern church has betrayed this Lord Jesus Christ.

May our desire be to accept both God's staff of love and His staff of obedience. We will then be assured eternal life with Him.

Brother James M. Hite
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 15, 1936

WISE AND UNWISE HEARERS

E. W. Pratt

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the word, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1:25.)

The perfect law of liberty. God on Sinai gave a perfect law. (Psa.

19:7-11) But Christ fulfilled this law and gave us the law of liberty. Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth, to the Jews first and also to the Greek.

The law and the prophets were until John, but now the kingdom of God is preached and all man press into it. A new commandment I give unto you that ye love one another for perfect love casteth out fear.

The first greatest commandment is, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy strength and with thy mind." And the second is like unto it, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Christ said, this do and thou shalt live.

Continueth therein. The praise is at the end of the road, the blessings are for those who overcome.

The doer is like a man who builded a house and digged deep and built his house on a rock. Christ is the rock and the chief corner stone. This is the stone that was rejected of you builders which has become the head of the corner.

When Solomon's temple was in building all the material was shaped before being brought to the builders so there was no sound of the hammer and it is said the builders found one stone which they said was not intended for the wall so they laid it to one side (rejected) but as the wall was built the time came to place the key stone and the rejected stone was the very stone they needed.

So we must dig deep to the bed rock for our foundation. We might find a fragment of rock lying on the sand, but we would still be building on the sand. When the engineer starts to build a dam he does not stand his foundation on a rock lying on the surface, he digs down sometimes two hundred or more feet to the solid rock.

Out in the English channel lies a rock called the Eddison rock. It lies in the path of ships and many attempts were made to build a lighthouse there to warn sailors, but not until they incorporated the building into the rock and made it a part of the rock did they succeed as all other structures were swept away. So we must make Christ a part of our very being. We sing, "On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand."

The unwise hear, but without a foundation build their house on the sand. Oh yes, Christ was a good man but he was only a man, they say. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would convince the world of sin, but they have not believed on Me. Peter said, "There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby ye must be saved."

Some are building on their own moral lives and good deeds but Isaiah says our righteousness is like filthy rags. How camest thou in

here not having on the wedding garment?

Some are calling some of Christ's teachings nonessential. Jesus said, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

James says, "If ye shall keep the whole law, but offend in one point ye are guilty of all." So though I may have kept the whole law of commandments but fail to love my brother as Christ loved, I like the rich young ruler, will lack one thing. Twice in Christ's ministry He cleansed the temple at Jerusalem saying, "It is written My house shall be called of all nations a house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves."

Our bodies are the temple of God and he that defileth the temple of God, him will God destroy. We cannot reserve a part of our bodies for Christ. Christ says we cannot serve two masters neither can we dedicate a part of a building to God's service and part to the world. God's house cannot be a house of merchandise nor a play house.

The storms come to one and all, our houses will be tested. The storms of life come thronging fast, their gloom reminds my soul at last. Thou thinkest Lord of me. The soul whose house is built on the solid rock will stand the storm, but the unwise builders will be wrecked. We see many all around us, and great is their fall.

What foundation are you building on? Christ or Satan? On your answer depends your eternal destiny.

GOD'S MEANS OF GRACE

W. E. Bashor

It is one thing for the prophet to cry: "Prepare to meet thy God," but it is another thing to know how we can meet God in peace! Yet, there need be no confusion in this matter, for the Word of God says that Christ is the author and finisher of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2) There are not a dozen ways, not even are there two ways, but just one way we can come to God in peace: it is through the man and Son of God, Christ Jesus.

Is not the cry of our hearts, "Oh, where shall peace be found?" The Scriptures answer with "...He is our peace." (Ephesians 2:14)

Where can we turn for life? Jesus answers, "I am...the life." (John 14:6) He also said, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

How can we be cleansed? The answer is: "The blood of Jesus Christ ...cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

The question is, just when does the blood of Jesus make the sinner clean to receive eternal life?

Some teach that all you have to do is just believe (only have faith) and that will save you. They teach that you do not have to be baptized to be saved. Let's examine this premise...

First, we know that we are saved by faith. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Second, we know that we are saved by grace. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

We also know that we are saved by hope. (Romans 8:24)

And, the Bible indicates we are also saved by repentance. (Luke 13:3-5)

Likewise, the Bible clearly states we are saved by baptism. (I Peter 3:21)

Clearly the Bible does not teach that we are saved by faith alone, but it takes all the means of grace that Jesus has provided to wash away our sins.

Scriptural View of Salvation

We want to show step by step what the Scriptures teach for the way to salvation.

Firstly, man must hear the Word in order to be brought to salvation: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17) It is necessary that we hear all of what the Bible teaches on any subject. That is the reason why Jesus commanded His disciples that they were to go and teach all nations "...all things whatsoever I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:20)

Secondly, we must realize that faith is necessary for salvation.

Hebrews 11:6 plainly says that "Without faith it is impossible to please Him (God)." Paul told the Philippian jailor to "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16:31)

But Paul did not stop with telling him to believe, for in the 32nd verse it reads: "And they spake unto him the word of the Lord." The 33rd verse then elaborates by saying "...And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes; and were baptized...straightway." Jesus said in Mark 16:16: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." We must have faith in Jesus that He is the Son of God and that His blood will cleanse us of our sins, but this faith means a trust in the Lord and not just belief only. The Apostle James writes, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." (James 2:19)

Thirdly, is the necessity of repentance for salvation. We must repent and turn from our sins and be sorrowful for the sins we have committed. "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." (II

Corinthians 7:10) When the multitude on the day of Pentecost cried out and said, "...what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38)

Fourthly, is the aspect of confession in respect to salvation. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9)

When Philip was preaching to the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts the eighth chapter the eunuch said to Philip, "See here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." The eunuch answered by saying, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Then upon his confession he stopped the chariot and they went down into the water both Philip and the eunuch and Philip baptized him. I John 4:3 says, "...every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the faith is not of God..."

Lastly, is the need for baptism. It is strange that men will take all the forgoing and say that these aspects are necessary for salvation but will contend that baptism is not necessary. But what does the Scripture teach? Let us go by the Word of God and not listen to man's opinion. I know that the devil wills for us to go only part way, for if he can get a man not to go all the way, he has won that man.

Jesus says in Mark 16:16: "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." Jesus plainly says that faith plus baptism equals salvation. No doubt about it! In Acts 2:38 Peter states: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Did he mean you could receive the Holy Ghost before baptism? If he did, then his words did not say what they meant.

Ananias came to Paul and said, as recorded in Acts 22:16, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." We see here that baptism has a part in the remission of sins.

The Basic Question

In I John 1:7 we read: "...the blood of Jesus Christ...cleanseth us from all sin."

We return to the question set before the reader earlier in this writing: Then just when does the blood of Christ cleanse us from all sin? This is an important matter. Paul says, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his

death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death..." (Romans 6:3-4) It is there, at baptism, that we obtain the benefits of that death. It is there, at baptism, when the blood of Christ is applied to our sins and we are cleansed from them. In Galatians 3:26-27, the apostle tells us that we are sons of God in Christ. The reason that he gives us is that "...as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." How many of us have actually put on Christ? "...as many as have been baptized into Christ." Therefore, baptism is the point of contact with the blood of Christ. We are not in Christ until we are baptized into Him.

In Ephesians 2:12-13 we are told that those who were once "...without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world...are now made nigh by the blood of Christ." we are made nigh by the blood of Christ because we have been baptized into Christ. We are baptized into the death of Christ where His blood was shed. Therefore, we are cleansed by the blood of Christ by being baptized into Him. Baptism is the only means of getting into Christ. But it takes faith, repentance, confession, and baptism to complete the plan of salvation which Jesus brought down from heaven, but baptism is the point of contact with the blood of Christ. Leaving out any one of these aspects will not secure us for eternal salvation.

Scriptural Mode of Baptism

It is important for us to know the Scriptural mode of baptism. There are several modes of baptism in use today and I would like to examine them so my readers may know which one is according to the Word of God. There is the mode of sprinkling, pouring, and the single immersion. These, I believe, were all started by man, and a simple study will reveal this point. Sprinkling comes from the Greek word *raino*. Pouring comes from the word *cheo* and the single immersion comes from the Greek word *bapto* which means a single dip.

In the New Testament none of these words are used to translate "baptize", "baptized" or "baptism". Why? Because they do not convey the meaning of the word. This is the only logical answer. I have talked to people that refer to Ephesians 4:5 where Paul said there is "One Lord, one faith, one baptism", and they would say: "See, here is one dip." The Greek word used here in Ephesians is *baptisma* and it is a noun and refers to the rite of baptism not to the action in baptism.

Every time the Greek word *bapto* is used in the New Testament it is translated "dip" (meaning to immerse). This occurs in the following three Scriptures: John 13:26, Luke 16:24, and Revelation 19:13. The

word baptism is the noun form of the word bapto and refers to the rite or ceremony of baptism. However, you can not have baptism without immersion anymore than you can have a race without running. With this illustration, we hope the reader can see the connection between the words. Just as the word "race" is to "run", so likewise "baptism" is to "dip". But the word "race" does not have the same meaning as the word "dip". "Baptism" is a noun; "dip" is a verb. "Race" is a noun; "run" is a verb. They are different parts of speech.

The Greek word used in the New Testament for the translations "baptize", "baptized", or "baptizing" is baptizo as according to Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon. This word means to "dip repeatedly". It is the plural form of the verb "dip" and is the only word used to denote baptism. Therefore, to baptize a person by the mode Jesus taught will require more than one dip. If Christ had meant a single dip, He would have used the word bapto.

Grammatical Comparisons

Then, in order to know the number of dips in a Scriptural baptism, we must go to the commandment given by the Lord in Matthew 28:19-20. I have never heard of one advocate of a single immersion who quoted this passage to substantiate their view. In all my experience with people, I have never found them to analyze or compare this passage with other Scriptures of like grammatical construction as we are seeking to look at here.

There are two passages of Scripture in the Bible I desire to bring to your attention that have the same grammatical construction as does the Great Commission. By comparing these passages we will readily understand the number of baptismal immersions referred to in Matthew 28:19-20.

The first passage is found in I Chronicles 29:29, and it reads: "Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they (are) written in the book of Samuel the seer, and in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of God the seer." In how many places were the acts written? Three, of course. How do we know? We know because there are three places used to denote the number of times the acts of David were written.

The second passage is found in Acts 7:36, and it reads: "He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years." How many places did He show signs and wonders? Again the answer is three, because we have three phrases connected together by the conjunction "and".

I would like to stop here and point out that a "phrase" is a group of

words which expresses a single thought or action. There are three phrases mentioned in each of the preceding passages with each having action, and since in each phrase is an action, there are, in fact, actually three separate actions occurring in the sentence. They are not one action with three parts rather three parts or passages each having action. Why? Because there are three phrases in each passage.

Likewise, in the Great Commission, Jesus teaches us to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Here, Jesus used three phrases connected together by the conjunction "and" as did our previous examples. Since baptizing means to dip repeatedly, it takes the number of the phrases used to tell us the number of dips we need to employ to follow the Great Commission. Therefore, we need three dips to baptize as Jesus taught. Any more or any less violate the plain teaching of the Master.

Historical Testimony

We can also go to history and find when all the other modes of baptism were started, but no man has ever found where trine-immersion was started this side of Christ and His apostles. Therefore the only safe conclusion is that the Scriptural mode of baptism is the trine-immersion.

One of the early Church historians, Tertullian, was born just 60 years after the death of John, the last of the Apostles. This is what Tertullian had to say on the subject of baptism:

"After His resurrection He promises in a pledge to His disciples that He will send them the promise of His Father; and lastly He commands them to baptize into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, not into a unipersonal God. And indeed it is not once only, but three times, that we are immersed into the Three Persons at each several mention of Their names." (Anti-Nicene Fathers, Writings of Tertullian, Volume III, page 623)

Jesus said in John 14:6: "...no man cometh unto the Father but by me." Paul points the way to get into Christ in Romans 6:3: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" Seeing now how important it is to take the Word of God for what it says, let us follow all His commandments concerning the plan of salvation which includes faith, repentance, confession, and baptism. This is the way the Scriptures teach it. There is no other way.

We beg of you today to accept God's plan of salvation.

WHAT JESUS IS TO THESE

To the artist He is the One Altogether Lovely.
To the architect He is the Chief Corner Stone.
To the baker He is the Living Bread.
To the banker He is the Hidden Treasure.
To the biologist He is the Life.
To the builder He is the Sure Foundation.
To the doctor He is the Great Physician.
To the educator He is the Great Teacher.
To the farmer He is the Lord of the Harvest.
To the florist He is the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley.
To the geologist He is the Rock of Ages.
To the jurist He is the Righteous Judge, the Judge of all men.
To the jeweler He is the Pearl of Great Price.
To the lawyer He is the Counselor, the Lawgiver, the Advocate.
To the horticulturist He is the True Vine.
To the newspaper man He is the Good Tidings of Great Joy.
To the oculist He is the Light of the World.
To the philanthropist He is the unspeakable Gift.
To the philosopher He is the Wisdom of God.
To the preacher He is the Word of God.
To the sculptor He is the Living Stone.
To the servant He is the Good Master.
To the statesman He is the Desire of All Nations.
To the student He is the Incarnate Truth.
To the theologian He is the Author and Finisher of Our Faith.
To the traveler He is the New and Living Way.
To the toiler He is the Giver of Rest.
To the sinner He is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.
To the Christian He is the Son of the Living God, the Saviour, the Redeemer and Lord.

Selected by the late Paul R. Myers

NEWS ITEMS

NOTE OF THANKS

We wish to thank all of you for remembering us on our 25th Anniversary by sending us cards and gifts. May God bless and keep you.

In His love,
Brother Eldon and Sister Angeline Mallow

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1996

July 7 - "I Am The Door; I Am The Good Shepherd"- John 10:1-18.

1. Explain how Jesus is the door to the sheepfold.
2. How can we know the voice of the Good Shepherd?

July 14 - Dedication to Christ - John 10:19-42.

1. Why did many of the people not believe?
2. For what reason did the Jews want to stone Jesus?

July 21 - Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life - John 11:1-46.

1. For what purpose did Jesus say Lazarus was sick?
2. In Jesus' words, why did He raise Lazarus from the dead?

July 28 - "That One Should Die"- John 11:47-57.

1. Why did the chief priests and Pharisees think that if the people believed on Jesus the Romans would take away both their place and nation?
2. Was the prophecy of Caiaphas from God? Explain.

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
FOR JULY 1996**

July 7 - High Minded - Luke 18:9-17, John 8:31-42.

1. How can we be justified before God?
2. How can we know we are a disciple of Jesus?

July 14 - Bad Company - Ex. 23:1-2, Ps. 1:1-6, II Cor. 6:14-18, Eph. 5:11-17, I Cor. 15:33-34.

1. With whom should we fellowship?
2. Delighting in what will help keep us out of bad company?

July 21 - Greediness - Pr. 1:10-19, Ec. 5:8-12, I Tim. 6:6-12, Ja.5:1-7.

1. What is usually the result of greediness?
2. Explain the relationship of patience and contentment.

July 28 - God's claim - Matt. 6:33, I Cor. 3:16-23, I Cor. 10:21-33.

1. How do our priorities demonstrate what we allow God to claim in our life?
2. How much of our life does God want to claim for Himself?

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

TWO BECOME ONE

Love is a two-way highway;
Marriage is a two-way street
Where harmony should overflow
Where the two highways meet.

Man and woman become one
When wedding vows are said.
May their lives be in accord
From the day they are wed.

Differences will surely come;
Two minds aren't the same.
Talking over your two opinions,
Perhaps one opinion you'll claim.

Trials come across your path,
So keep Christ in your heart.
You'll grow mature in His love
And never want to part.

-Irene Stout

ENDURING LOVE

In this wedding season, hopefully those who commit their lives to each other will be joined in the bonds of love. It is hoped marriage will be based on more than physical attraction. It is hoped these partners will be committed to each other through thick and thin. It is hoped they will be flexible enough to adapt to each other's needs. A wedding is an expression of love and hope that all the problems of life can be fairly met as two are bound together in one.

Love can be defined in many ways. We think of love one way as we contemplate a marriage. Love appears differently when we think of the love between parents and children. The love shared by friends and neighbors is yet different. The love between Brethren and Sisters is a different love. All of these types of love differ, yet they all are the products of the love of God.

The greatest of all love is the love of God. His love is greater than any other love that has ever been shown in this world. His love is not only for the whole world, but for each individual. His love was so great that He gave the Ultimate Gift of His Own Son to be the propitiation for the sins of mankind. His gift was not based upon what would benefit Himself, but what would benefit each person in this world. Since all are sinners, all are the objects of His love. It was His will and pleasure that all would be a part of His family. He had willed it so, when He created Adam and Eve, but they had frustrated His will. It was necessary to accomplish His plan of salvation through Spiritual adoption into His family.

Having been adopted as His sons, men were united as the Church. There they could display their devotion and love for God. Each son of

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God also could show love to the others who had similarly become a part of the same family. Within the family of God some were placed in positions of leadership. They were to direct the family in serving their Heavenly Father in an acceptable way. These were able by Bible study, prayer, and right use of talents to counsel and lead the rest of the body.

The role of these leaders might be misinterpreted. They are often viewed in a way that is not consistent with their holy calling. There have been some leaders in the past who have neglected or misused their offices. Some have developed a dictatorial spirit. Some have misled God's people. Many have not led, but instead have followed their followers. Many mistakes have been made, but it remains that the faithful ones called by God to these positions have a very worthwhile and honorable vocation. Those who rightly serve the God, who has called them, are worthy of the honor that God intends for them to have.

Leaders, as God's earthly assistants, will show His love to those they serve. They will not lord it over the Lord's heritage but will serve. Their service may take many avenues. One of those avenues is the application of discipline. Discipline is often viewed as a negative feature of the Church. Actually, it is designed, when rightly used, to make the body a fully functioning body of believers. Discipline can make the body stronger for the body will be united in its beliefs and practices. Discipline within the Church will bring obedience and a fuller expression of love and service within the Church, if rightly received, just as discipline is necessary within the family. It is evident what has happened in families as discipline has decreased over the years. The same malady appears in the Church when discipline is no longer used. Just as fathers need to be careful in their application of discipline of family members, so the leaders of the Church need to use a similar caution in applying discipline within the Church.

Love is often viewed as a warm and fuzzy feeling that seeks only what the individual desires. Just as self-indulgence does not work in the family, it does not work in the Church. Love must sometimes apply warnings and penalties to be most effective. Love that does not discipline does not convey true love. Love sometimes shows the full force of Scriptural power through the penalties that will compel the errant to seek forgiveness and restoration.

Enduring love is a love that continues to seek the best for the object of its love. That love will carry on, though there may be opposition. Too often love is viewed as giving in to the other, when that giving in could have harmful effects. An enduring love must seek what is best and continue to pursue that course. It may not always be easy, but it will, when successful, promote eternal life for the one who is the object of its

affection.

Do you have an enduring love for the family of God?

M.C.Cook

ANY ROOT OF BITTERNESS

Hebrews 12:14-15, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;"

Ephesians 4:31-32, "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

There are individuals who seem to have a "sweet tooth" and crave that type of indulgence. A few, like myself, enjoy the taste of something sour. But we have never heard anyone express a desire for something bitter. When something unpleasant comes into our life we sometimes use the expression, "That was a bitter pill to swallow."

While the taste of something bitter is very unpleasant, the root of bitterness spoken of in our opening verses has far greater consequences. There are at least three areas of our life that this affects. Each of them is closely linked together and may overflow the boundaries of each other.

The first area we would like to think about is bitterness about life in general. We have read of individuals who have become so bitter with life that they refuse to bathe, change garments and take care of the proper nourishment required. Some of these were very wealthy in this world's goods. While these are, admittedly, an extreme example, many, if not most, of us have been bitter over some circumstance or another.

The second area we wish to think about is bitterness towards others. When someone wrongs us it is natural to feel bitterness towards that individual. But God desires for us to have a spirit that allows us to follow peace with all men. To accomplish this we must have a desire to be forgiving of one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven us. We find that it is very often easier to forgive someone than to accept forgiveness offered to us. We can also harbor a root of bitterness towards a group. We do not believe God expects us to "close our eyes" to false teaching and/or practices that lead away from Bible principles. But a root of bitterness within us will only add to, not solve, the problem. We confess that we have not always had a spirit of brotherly love when approaching an individual in these circumstances. While we are very hesitant to encourage an individual to leave a group, we believe this

would be better than harboring any root of bitterness. We must be careful that a root of bitterness does not cause us to condemn a denomination or gathering because of the teachings or actions of a portion of that assembly. A root of bitterness can cause us to become so self righteous that we become convinced that no one else in a group is trying to be obedient to Scripture. The four sermons preached on Sunday morning and afternoon at General Conference from the assigned topic PRESERVING FAITHFULNESS: in the midst of: Deteriorating Morals, Exploding Technology, Religious Confusion, and Changing Vocational Opportunities, should have helped relieve any anxiety that we are no longer concerned with being faithful and helped to assuage any root of bitterness we may have had.

Probably the greatest tragedy is a root of bitterness against God, Himself. We confess that we are unable to explain how God can have His hand upon His own at all times and yet disaster strikes in many ways. When this happens an individual usually becomes either "bitter or better." There have been those who have lost the joy of Heaven in this life and the next because of a root of bitterness springing up in their souls in such circumstances.

Any root of bitterness destroys the individual that it controls rather than the one it is directed toward. It can cause physical ailments and spiritual ruin. Let us desire to follow the wise counsel of "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you."

Brother James M. Hite

816 E. Birch St.

Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

I QUIT

"Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee..." John 21:3a.

Have you ever felt like quitting? It would not be unusual if you did. We can look down through the annals of the faithful and see many who threw up their hands and said, in effect, "What is the use?" Moses was impatient, but God was in charge. How many times in our experience did we need to be reassured that God was in charge? Elijah was ready to quit in I Kings 19. He thought he was the only one left worshipping God and the enemy was ready to kill him. That is when God spoke to him.

We cannot handle our problems alone. We need to be constantly assured that God not only is there to help us with our problems, but that He is IN CHARGE.

Let us allow ourselves to get the picture in John chapter twenty-one.

The disciples had walked with the Saviour for three and one-half years. He had directed their every step in all that time. Suddenly He was gone. Peter, always ready to speak up, spoke from his heart. Since the Lord was gone, he would return to what he knew best before Jesus arrived on the scene. He would go back to fishing. It was fun while it lasted, but they should get back to earning a livelihood. The problem with this reasoning, logical as it appears, is that Jesus told them that He would rise from the dead, and the disciples were not able to grasp this truth. Fear had driven them from the scene of the crucifixion. Fear continued to rule even after Jesus reappeared and was recognized. The account says that Peter drew a cloak around him and jumped into the sea. Was he afraid the Lord had seen him naked, or was it the fact of his unbelief? Let us learn to believe God.

After reading all this, the alert reader will say, "The Holy Ghost was not yet given." This is true, and we have the Holy Ghost today as our constant companion and teacher. So what is our excuse if we feel like quitting? Are we not human? Does our carnality often prevail? The scriptures tell us to provoke one another to love and good works. The fact is we need each other on this uneven journey of life. We need not be afraid to help one another or at least encourage one another. We are compassed about with a tremendous cloud of witnesses, especially those who have gone on before. It is always an encouragement to me to remember those who have trod this way before me. Heaven indeed will be worth it all.

Come, let us join our friends above,
Who have obtained the prize,
And on the eagle wings of love
To joy celestial rise.

Let saints below in concert sing
With those to glory gone;
For all the servants of our King,
In heaven and earth, are one.

Dear Saviour, be our constant guide;
Then, when the word is given,
Bid Jordan's narrow stream divide,
And land us safe in heaven.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 1, 1936

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**E.W. Pratt**

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." (Psa. 119:9.)

For a number of years we have heard a great deal about religious education, then as this was thought to be too general a term they changed to Christian Education. In I Cor. 1:18-31 the apostle contrasts man's wisdom with God's and shows God's foolishness to be wiser than man's wisdom and God's weakness to be stronger than man's strength.

So our question, wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his ways is a live question.

Paul had been highly educated to take a seat in the Sanhedrin, the highest religious council of his nation, and started out a persecutor of the church, and says, I verily thought I was doing God service.

We have many today who have attended so-called Bible schools in preparation for service in the church and yet lack a true knowledge of the word. A list of Bible questions was submitted to a number of theological students, and they averaged a very low percent in right answers. How would they take heed to their ways according to the word?

It was only when Paul heard God's call and asked Lord what wilt Thou have me to do, that he got a right start and even then he went into the wilderness of Arabia three years in God's school before he was fitted for his life work.

O, that some of our theological students might have Paul's experience.

Character building should begin several generations before the child is born and the spirit of love and harmony should permeate the home. A large per cent of our criminals come from broken homes, parental responsibility and the right character of their children cannot be over emphasized.

Christian education then is a part, an essential part of the home life. See in this connection Deut. 6, where God put this responsibility right up to the children of Israel. They were to teach their children diligently.

The church and Sunday school are secondary to the home training for it begins before the kindergarten age and continues as long as the child is in the home.

Other religions recognize the value of early child training. The Catholic child has to learn the Catechism, the Mohammedan, the Koran and the Hindu the Vedas.

The Buddhist have their schools where they sing our sacred hymns

with buddha's name substituted for our Savior; and even the atheists have their schools to teach their pernicious doctrine.

May we not credit Moses' mother with his choice to suffer with the people of God rather than dwell in the tents of wickedness for a season. Remember she was his nurse and 40 years of Egypt could not efface her influence.

But the church is responsible to preach the word, be instant in season, reprove rebuke with all long suffering and doctrine, for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, and shall heap to themselves teachers having itching ears and shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned to fables.

Are we not already in those perilous times when preachers are more interested in ball games and horse races than in preaching the word, when the church is more concerned about feeding the body with natural bread than with feeding the soul with the living bread; when revelry and drama and plays are substituted for the preaching of the word?

In conclusion Christian education means parental responsibility for home training in the word of God. Paul commended Timothy because from a child he had known the Holy Scriptures and his mother and grandmother were his teachers, but Paul still enjoins Timothy to study to show himself a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. The Psalmist said, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee."

This means making it a part of our very being. It has been said there are men who could reproduce the word of God from memory if all copies were destroyed. May we not say they have hidden it in their hearts.

Parents are responsible for home influences, for love and harmony are essential, without them it fails to be a home.

Then in conclusion parents are responsible for environment. Witness Lot, he pitched his tent toward Sodom and soon he got into Sodom, he brought up his children in that wicked city, he was pained with the wickedness but stayed on until the Lord drove him out and he lost his children, his wife and his property.

I met a man in Texas several years ago who told me he had owned a fine home in Kansas where he was isolated from the church and sold out and moved to Texas where he had a new home to make, but where his children would have church environment. His three children were all in the church and active in service.

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

Let us see to it that our children have God's word hid in their hearts so they may take heed thereto and not sin.

ESPECIALLY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE I HAVE NOTHING THAT YOU NEED

I Cor. 1:23, "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;"

It is true! If you have Christ, then you have everything you need. Paul says in Col. 1:28, "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect (complete) in Christ Jesus:"

Are you in Christ? Are you perfect (complete)? If so, then what could I add to that completeness? I might spend some time expanding on what completeness in Him means, but I have nothing to give by way of an addition. **YOU ARE COMPLETE.**

Good advertisement always needs a hook to make the product look appealing, stand out among the others, and become an object of lust. Unfortunately, Christianity has become a product of its hundreds of competing brands. Each with its own attractive hook, which is promoted above the person of Christ. These hooks promote such things as traveling around the world to place feet on the land for which believers are to pray, knowing Greek, being well versed on Church history, having a one time fix, or being able to tell an incredible experience.

Certainly, many of these things are things that may be revealed in one's completeness in Christ, but they do not make one more special or complete. I call this pyramid preaching, because someone stands at the top with the addition he wants to push, looking down on the lowly masses of believers, encouraging them to become like him, emphasizing his superiority and others' inferiority in the faith.

If you are the lowliest of believers, a new convert, someone who has never had an emotional experience, or who has been disappointed even though trusting God for your health or the health of a loved one, please note that you are complete in Christ. The day you accepted Him you were seated at the top of the pyramid; no one has anything you need to run after, for you are complete in HIM!

We might find ourselves lusting to be carnal with the proponents of the greatest gimmicks. Faith is the greatest honor bestowed by God — greater than experience, prayer, or remarkable activities. True miracles are seldom advanced by believers. They are definitely given from the hand of God as the result of faith. They involve such things as the ability to love an enemy, steadfastness in reversals, and knowledge of our completeness in HIM. If the spectacular happens within the context of faith, then of course we praise God, but true faith spends more time advertising Christ than it does the spectacular that comes from Christ.

Rejoice in faith, for you are complete in Christ.

Brother Greg Wray

THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

B. F. Masterson

It is said that man is eminently a religious being, he has within him feelings and sentiment which tends to awe and veneration. Wherever we become intimate with men's character we discover this truth. The Indians have their religious rites and superstitious fears, the Hindus have their countless idols and forms of worship; the Egyptians deify almost every living thing. At Athens they erected countless altars and the one to the unknown God.

The knowledge of the true God was committed to Abraham and his seed and while the Gentiles were sunk in crime and darkness "that which may be known of God is manifest in them, for God hath shewed it unto them." (Rom. 1:19.)

Of the sincere and devoted worshippers of the true God, David was the chief. He said as for me, I will come into Thy house in the multitude of Thy mercy and in thy fear will I worship toward Thy holy temple. His object in coming to God's house was to worship the true God, to have sweet communion with Him. No doubt David had reference to the tabernacle which was erected by divine command which was God's dwelling place amongst His people and where He manifested His glory.

First, the people worshipped the true God in the tabernacle, then in the temple, then in the synagogue, for convenience sake, but always turned their faces toward the temple when they prayed, which implied that the temple was superior to the synagogue, from the fact that it was the place where God dwelt and manifested His glory.

Some people seem to compare the church house to the temple, which is a mistake. The temple was a type of Jesus Christ, God dwelt in Him. "In this place is One greater than the temple." (Matt. 12:6.) Destroy this temple." (Jno. 2:19.) It is also a type of the child of God. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God." (I Cor. 3:16.) "Ye are the temple of the living God." (II Cor. 6:16.)

The temple was also a type of the church. If so, nothing could be too fine and pure to embellish the temple to typify the purity of the church. Some seem to think that our churches should be decorated with fineries because the temple was of costly material, but it represents nothing but pride. "But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth. God is a spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." (Jno. 4:2-4.)

Whenever there is the spirit of true devotion, where two or three are

gathered together in His name there He is in the midst of them. The place of meeting the Lord and one another makes it so pleasing. It is what Paul was alluding to when he said, "And hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (Eph. 2:6.) The German has it "heavenly realm" rather the condition than place, but even the place where the saints meet becomes sacred. David evidenced his affection for the place when he said, "As for me I will come into Thy house." The poet expressed the thought so beautifully:

"You may sing of the beauty of mountains and dale,
Of the silvery streamlets and flowers of the vale;
But the place most delightful this earth can afford
Is the place of devotion, the house of the Lord."

David had constant regard for God's house, "I will come," not as a traveler or guest, but as to his home. "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go unto the house of the Lord," and his purpose was to worship, "I will worship." The worship then was largely superficial in types and shadows leading up to the New Testament worship which is intensely spiritual. Some seem to have lost sight of this fact and have pictures hanging in their churches which seems inconsistent with the true worship.

"In spirit and in truth," some worship the minister, some the service, and some themselves. "God is a spirit, and they that worship Him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

There are four things especially included in worship. The first is praise. "Praise ye the Lord, for it is good to sing praise unto our God." "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Col. 3:16.)

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." (Eph. 5:19.) Singing is worship.

Paul being so precise in specifying what is worship along the line of praise don't you think that if Paul would have considered it consistent to associate musical instruments with worship he would have mentioned it. It was not that the instruments were sacred, for worshippers of idols had plenty of them in their worship.

The second is prayer. It is natural for a child of God to pray, and there are some beautiful thoughts connected with prayer. David was seeking after, that he might dwell in the house of the Lord. (Ps. 27:4.) The burning of incense is a type of the prayers of the saints, which brings about a wonderful display in heaven, "And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and there was given unto him much

incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints ascended up before God out of the angel's hand." (Rev. 8:3-4.)

David said, "Let my prayers be set forth before Thee as incense." I wonder if Paul did not think of this display in heaven in connection with the prayers of the saints when he said that the sisters should have their heads veiled when they pray, because of the angels?

Surely, when saints are gathered together in worship, the sisters should have their heads veiled and the brethren, their heads uncovered in such a heavenly realm.

David desired to dwell in the house of the Lord to inquire in His temple. Hence teaching is included in worship. There is always a demand for knowledge. He that hungers and thirsts for heavenly knowledge will be filled. It is the last command of Jesus to go and teach, teach. The best method to tell the story of the cross, with all patience and longsuffering. It can not be done by force, but by persuasion, it cannot be done by physical force. Christ never was out of the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, but the influence of His teaching is felt throughout the world. Each learner is like a phonograph that registers and reproduces speech. The hearts are pliable like the disk which receives the impression and then reproduces the story of the cross, a wonderful influence for good.

Our forefathers were never out of Pennsylvania where the church first started in America, but their influence is felt from coast to coast; in India, China and Africa.

Meditation and communion with God is included in worship, where the mind is lifted up to God, and where our conversation is in heaven. (Phil. 3:20) "Blessed is the man, whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law doth he meditate day and night." (Psa. 1:2.) David would cultivate the spirit of holy veneration, "And in thy fear will I worship," not lightly, not as a person going to a house of amusement or hall of science, or place of business, or a social gathering, but in seriousness with solemnity and awe. "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God." For the place where thou standest is holy ground.

In the spirit of expectation, "toward thy holy place." The place where thou dwellest between the angels over the mercy seat. We must look to the holiest place, which Christ the fore runner, has for us entered our Father's house. Look through Christ for pardon, mercy, grace, comfort and heaven at last.

Selected from February 1, 1936
Bible Monitor

WILL YOUR NAME BE CALLED OUT - IN HELL???

"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." God said, "I have loved thee with everlasting love and kindness, and will have mercy on thee."

To you who are weary and tired of your life of sin, Jesus says, "Come unto me, I will give you rest, and a new life in Me." Many people have heard the gospel preached, and have felt the Spirit of God drawing them with cords of love unto Jesus Christ our Saviour, but many have turned Him away and said, "Some other day."

Many have died and gone into eternity without Christ by putting off the day of their salvation. You who have rejected, refused, mocked, and turned Jesus away - He loves you still. He is not willing that anyone die without being forgiven of their sins.

Jesus was beaten, mocked, and nailed to the cross with blood flowing from Him. By asking Jesus to forgive you His precious blood will wash away every sin.

He is pleading with you to come to Him. His arms of love and mercy are stretched out to take you and forgive you, but you must be willing to receive Jesus and take Him as your Saviour. You cannot be too low in sin to be saved. Even if you feel that your sin is too bad and that Jesus doesn't want you, He still loves you. He said, "Come, all." That means you! He will blot out your sins and remember them no more against you. He will cover them with His blood. Oh, how He loves you, dear one; don't die without Him.

IF you refuse and reject Him when you draw your last breath, **YOU WILL HEAR YOUR NAME CALLED OUT IN HELL.** Yes, the devil and demons will call your name and welcome you with jeering, laughing, mocking, to torment, agony, and everlasting punishment. Matt. 25:46. You will then remember the time when you rejected Jesus.

When you reject Jesus, you will be out of the reach of Jesus; just as the rich man remembered when he was in hell. He said, "Send Lazarus with water to cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame." He also remembered his five brothers, and feared they might go where he was too. Yes, you too will remember in hell. Luke 16:20-31. He left the things of this world and riches that had kept him from Jesus. What is hindering you from praying and accepting Jesus now?

You have no lease on life. In a moment, when God calls you, whether you are ready or not, you must go. Death does not wait. **WILL YOUR NAME BE CALLED IN HELL?...or DO YOU WANT IT TO BE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE IN HEAVEN?** Please, dear one, pray and accept Jesus now.

You Christians who read this may say, "This is not for me." Wait!

Read and see if you pass the test. We talk of the glories of heaven, eating of the tree of life, where God will wipe away all tears from our eyes. Yes, it will be wonderful there. Are you failing to give that kind word that some soul needs, or that kind look of compassion and love? Are you judging or condemning when you should take the beam out of your own eye? Do you have envy, jealousy, or pride? Are you disobedient to God? Are you trying to make a name for yourself? Do you have a passion for souls? Are you standing in the gap snatching souls from hell in intercessory prayer? Summing it all up, are you like Jesus?

Will anyone cry out your name in hell, scream and say, "You failed to warn me. You talked to me many times, but never told me of Jesus." Will someone cry out your name in hell and say, "I'm here because you failed to be like Jesus," or "I did not know you knew Jesus." Christians, let us draw nigh unto Jesus until we will be so like Him that we can say as Paul, "I am free from the blood of all men." Are you sure that no one **WILL CALL YOUR NAME OUT IN HELL?** The birds and lilies fulfill their purpose. Do you?

OBITUARY

GEORGE FRICK

Brother George Otis Frick, son of Noah and Clara Frick, was born in Portage County, Ohio, July 11, 1914. He passed away, unexpectedly, April 26, 1996, at the age of 81 years, 9 months, and 14 days.

He was a member of the Conservative German Baptist Brethren Church. His occupation was farm drainage and farming.

He was united in marriage with Charlotte Emma Weaver on September 5, 1945. To this union were born five children.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three half-sisters: May Frick, Hazel Poff, and Fern Wolf.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years and the children, Gloria and husband Mervin Hilty; Linda; Glen and wife Shirley; Retha and husband Robert Musser; Daryl and wife Sieglinda. Also surviving are eighteen grandchildren, one sister, Marie Keck, and nieces and nephews.

Services were held at the Palestine Old German Baptist Church on April 30, 1996, with Lloyd Keeny and Owen Stout officiating. Interment was in the Miller Cemetery.

We thank all for cards, prayers and concern shown at the passing of our loved one, George Frick.

Charlotte Frick and family

NEWS ITEMS

CHANGES ARE COMING

Due to new postal regulations, there will be several changes in the mailing of the Bible Monitor. Beginning with the July 15, 1996, issue new procedures will necessitate placing the address on the back cover instead of the front. At least at the beginning a mailing company will be handling these details. This will involve an additional expense in the production and mailing of the Bible Monitor. Please remember these substantial increases in costs when contemplating an offering to the Publication Board. We thank you for your generous support of the Publication Board and especially the Bible Monitor. (Note - P.O. has now informed us that changes will take place on 1-1-97.)

HART, MICHIGAN

The Lord willing, the Hart Congregation will have Revival Services, July 14 through July 21. Bro. Fred Pifer, of Dallas Center, Iowa will be the evangelist. Lovefeast Service will begin Saturday 11:00 A.M.; Examination service at 2:00 P.M.; and Lovefeast at 7:00 P.M.

Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy the fellowship. Come praying that souls may be touched and strengthened in these last days.

Sister Anna M. Powell, Cor.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Revival Meeting 1996 begins July 19 through July 28 if it pleases the Lord. Brother Jim Meyers from Dallas Center, Iowa will be the evangelist. Services start at 7:45 P.M. week nights and 6:00 P.M. Sunday evening. Come help us enjoy God's Word together.

Recently we welcomed Bro. John and Sis. Marti Ledington into our midst by the right hand of fellowship.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Shrewsbury Congregation is looking forward to another Revival Meeting this summer.

Bro. Phil Gish, from Ohio plans to be with us from August 11 to August 18. Pray for these meetings and come worship and fellowship with us.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Congregation will be holding Revival Meetings with Bro. Fred Pifer from August 18 through August 25. Services on Saturday, August 24 will be at 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. Lovefeast will be at 6:30 P.M. Services on Sunday, August 25 will be at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.

All are invited to come and worship with us!

Sister Deena Andrews, Cor.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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JULY 15, 1996

NO. 14

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

free, Free, FREE!

We can be free from Satan's clutch
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We can repent from evil ways
And lean upon His Word.

Think! Free from a guilty conscience,
Walking the path of light,
Depending on Christ to guide us,
E'en through the darkest night.

Yes, free from our earthly bondage...
We can be born again,
Of water and of the Spirit.
What a blessed refrain!

We've an advocate with our God,
It is Christ, His dear Son.
He'll plead our cause when we have sinned;
There's cleansing for each one.

It is then He restores our soul,
He is our Righteous Judge!

We'll find freedom as His servants
And never hold a grudge.
-Irene Stout

Justice, Judgment and Salvation

The Prophet Isaiah often spoke of the people's failure to do God's will. Although they believed themselves to be God's people, they were reluctant to follow His commands. In Isaiah 59, he warned them that the judgment of God was in store for them because of their hypocrisy.

They wondered why they seemingly had lost contact with God. They did not seem to receive the blessings that their forefathers had enjoyed in a previous day. Instead of wonderful and marvelous deeds being done for their benefit, they perceived only silence from Heaven. Why were they not receiving the answers that they wished? Isaiah could tell them.

There had been no change in God. They had changed. He still had eyes to see and ears to hear. They had placed a barrier between themselves and God. That barrier was their iniquities and sins. Through unfaithfulness they had lost their former power with God.

Their sins had been varied and widespread. He presents a lengthy catalog of their sins. Some were personal. Some involved the whole nation. Their sin was very evident.

He speaks of a lack of justice among them. They shed innocent blood. Their doings were compared to a spider's web. The spider's web is a sign of deceit. It also shows the power of what is seemingly little and fragile, yet able to destroy. How many flies have wished too late that they had not been enticed into a spider's web? It looked so harmless, but it proved so deadly. This is a picture of sin. Satan never allows sin to appear as sin. He always dresses it in appealing wraps, so it might not appear sin. Only too late does the victim

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recognize his terrible situation.

Many work against their own best interest and the best interest of the Church. It is not because they deliberately set out to harm the Church or their own lives, but a brighter pathway shines before them. They forget that Satan often appears as an angel of light deceiving all he can. He uses other men to entice even more to their destruction. Again, it is the supposedly fragile spider's web that catches its victims. It is much later, if ever, when they awaken to the damage that has been done in their personal lives and in the Church. Some do awaken soon enough to rescue themselves and maybe a few others, but the damage they have wrought upon the Church will go unchanged.

Isaiah warned his people that their chosen path would lead to undesirable results. Already they were aware that God was not responding to their prayers. There were other punishments in store for them. Eventually their falling away from God would be so continuous and so evil that they would go into captivity in far-away Babylon. They were no longer fit subjects to live in the land that God had given them. He wanted people who would love and serve Him and each other to live in the Promised Land.

Justice was not found among them. Now, they murdered, stole and cheated to get what they wanted. Their hands were covered with blood. Their fingers were covered with sin. Their lips had spoken deceitfully. Certainly they were not good reflections of the God who had settled them in the land.

Judgment was unknown amongst them. They might be able to use good judgment in business, but they lacked the judgment needed to make correct Spiritual decisions. They could not wisely judge between the leading of God's Spirit and the bidding of self and Satan. They easily followed the desires of their hearts. They could see no advantage in serving God. They did not identify with the practices God had established for their eternal well-being.

Because they lacked justice and judgment, they also lacked salvation. They would not be able to look forward to the blessings that awaited those who loved and served God. Justice and judgment held a stake in their future happiness.

The situation that Isaiah found in his land in his time is not so different then the situation found today. People today try to live as the people of the past did. They still lay aside justice and judgment. They will receive the same results that those of old received. Because they failed to pass the test of Christian living, they will also fail the requirements of a loving and merciful God.

Would you have been the object of Isaiah's rebuke? Have you laid

hold on justice, judgment and salvation?

M.C.Cook

STILL PREPARING

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalm 119:11.

"Pray without ceasing." I Thess. 5:17.

When can you say you are satisfied with your knowledge of the scriptures? Are we ever finished with prayer or Bible study?

I sat in a meeting one time and the Brother that conducted the opening devotions stood. In his words, he mentioned that the preacher was now done preparing for his message and was waiting to deliver it. The first thing that occurred to me was, when does a minister STOP preparing for a message? I heard a preacher say one time that he had prepared a message for a certain Sunday morning. The Lord had given him another one at 7:15 that morning during his morning devotions. In order to mind the Spirit, he skipped breakfast and studied until he stepped into the pulpit. We will be used of God if we keep ourselves open to His leading rather than sticking to our own.

How do you prepare to preach a message or teach a lesson or lead a person to Christ? Do you pray first and ask God's direction and blessing for what you are about to do? What is the next step? There is much Christian literature on the market that makes it easy to prepare. Books, commentaries, and even the new Bible versions are tainted by the thoughts of men. A man will get into the pulpit and mouth the thoughts of others, not the Holy Scriptures. If it is made too easy, then of what value can it be? I sat in school for twelve years at one hundred and eighty days a year so I would be able to read and write and cipher and have a knowledge of history and geography and a few other things. I spent a lot of extra hours doing homework. A lot of what was drilled into me, over and over, I remembered. The Scriptures I learned in Sunday School as a child I also remembered. There is no short-cut to preparing the gospel message. It is important when studying to get the mind of God on the matter not the ideas of man. You can get a sermon outline out of a book, or cute little anecdotes out of a book, and that is fine, but the mind of God comes from earnest prayer and the study of God's Word.

When I began to study the Bible at age sixteen I used a King James Bible with no helps and a dictionary. I had read through that Book three times before I opened any other. I discovered that God's Word holds the answer to whatever difficulties man can get into.

Seek God through prayer and His Word. You will not go wrong.

O may I love, at early day
To rise, when all is still,
And hear my Saviour kindly say,
"Come, ask me what you will."

O may I love to search his law,
To hear his words of love,
And feel his spirit sweetly draw
My soul to "things above."

O may I love to ask, in prayer,
His spirit's guiding ray—
Through every scene of anxious care,
Through life's bewildered way.

Thus let me spend each rising hour,
Thus close my latest days,
Till I shall wake, to sleep no more,
Where prayer is changed to praise.

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A SWEET SAVOUR OF CHRIST

II Corinthians 2:15-17, "For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ."

Of all the bodily senses the olfactory or sense of smell is probably the most sensitive. While the organs that produce the other senses, the eyes, ears, tongue and skin (along with the nerves) can affect other parts of the body, the senses themselves, sight, hearing, taste and feel, are more limited than the sense of smell in affecting the rest of our body. A good smell can make us hungry and affect us in many other ways. It is hard to describe how a sweet smell gives us a feeling of exhilaration. Conversely, a bad smell can cause our stomach to become queasy. If food does not smell right to us it will not taste right either. An acrid smell can actually cause a feeling of foreboding.

The Apostle Paul makes a very strange statement in our opening verses. He says that we (Christians) are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved. When we are ill there is nothing more encouraging than the fellowship and prayers of the Saints. When we are lonely a telephone call or a visit from a brother or sister in the Lord is like smelling the sweet flowers of Spring. When Satan tempts us a word of encouragement from someone of the household of faith is like a bouquet of sweet smelling roses.

But how can we be a sweet savour of Christ in them that perish? Paul says we are a savour of death unto death. There is nothing more putrid than the smell of death. How can this be described as a sweet savour? We believe the answer is found in what can result when an individual faces the reality of death. Physical death is normally unwelcome to all of us. Only those suffering great pain or distress desire it.

There is a great truth in the statement that many are eager to go to Heaven but very few are in a hurry to die to get there. We do not believe this is wrong. God has given man the will to live and we believe He desires for us to take care of our bodies to live as long as we can. But to deny the reality of death is another matter.

Even more of a concern should be the reality of spiritual death. Every human on earth will experience physical death unless the Lord should return during their lifetime. But there is a way to escape spiritual death. This is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, we believe, symbolized in trine immersion baptism.

Paul goes on to say that we are not as many which corrupt the word of God. You can not truly seek salvation until you realize that you are a sinner. Modern theology (which may not be as new as we suppose) denies that man is born a sinner. They teach that basically we are all good. It is a stink in the nostrils of God when human works are offered for salvation. We can be a sweet savour of Christ by informing individuals of a need to recognize their hopeless estate.

This must be done with sincerity. We must really love those who are lost in sin. Although most of our lives are taken up with the time consuming reality of making a living, we should make time to reach the lost one way or another. God has called some into the ministry for this purpose. That does not let the rest of us "off the hook." We do not believe you must accost everyone you come into contact with but be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, who must do the convicting.

Our witnessing must be as of God. We do not believe you should be involved in worldly pleasures to "witness for Christ." We should

not be offensive but we must realize that the Word of God will sometimes offend. We must leave the results in the hands of God.

We must speak of Christ. Church doctrine has its place but can not win a soul to Christ. Let us desire to be a sweet savour of Christ.

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ESPECIALLY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE CRYING

Whatever Jesus said or did has eternal significance. Often I like to go through the Gospels and only read the red-lettered words of Jesus. I love to hear His teaching.

I thought recently that I should ponder the very first thing He ever spoke. Actually, it was not a word, but a sound, a cry. The first thing that came out of the mouth of Jesus was a cry. What is the message in God, Himself, crying? What does the cry of a baby solicit in us? What have our own tears taught us?

The cry of a baby demands examination of the situation by the parents so they can provide what is needed. A cry is a proclamation of helplessness, dependence, trust, and need. It is the recognition that, "I can't."

If Jesus would acknowledge His existence in such a way, then should we not also? When we cry we are heard by the same Father in heaven who heard Him.

There is simply too much stress from not crying. Several years ago a chemical was discovered in the brains of anxiety ridden people. For years chemists have attempted to neutralize that chemical in the hope of bringing relief to the suffering. To date no medication has proven effective. However, if the tears of the afflicted are analyzed, one will find the anxiety-causing chemical being released. Why? Tears acknowledge the true condition: we can't.

We were not created to be God, but to need God. Trying to fulfill a job description for which we are not created causes anxiety. Tears are proof that we have begun to give up on playing God. Psalm 126:5, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."

It is pride that keeps us from crying out. It therefore keeps us in misery. If we would run to the sound of a cry and act, how much more will He? Though just as parents do not always pander to a child's every cry, the Lord does not always intervene to immediately relieve our sources of misery. As we acknowledge, "Apart from You I can do nothing," look for the Great "I CAN" to eventually move in.

Both our waiting and His moving can build faith.

Brother Greg Wray

SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 15, 1936

THE NEW BIRTH

William Root

(Jno. 3-7) "Marvel not that I say unto thee, ye must be born again."

Nicodemus seemed astonished at the words of our Lord as recorded in the text. He was thinking only in natural terms or about the natural birth, while the Savior had reference to spiritual things or the spiritual birth.

Nicodemus was a Jewish teacher or Rabbi, a Pharisee or a master in Israel. Jesus scorned the doctrine of the Pharisees, with their hypocrisy, pronouncing woes upon them. So he said to the great Jewish teacher "Art thou a master of Israel and knowest not these things."

Now my great man if you cannot discern spiritual things or be born of both water and spirit you cannot see or enter God's kingdom.

Now there are still people in the world today who insist that a child is prepared for the church or the kingdom of God when it has memorized the ten commandments, and twenty-third Psalm and can repeat the Lord's prayer.

Now my dear readers, it is well and good for us as parents to teach our children to memorize scriptures and to teach them to learn to pray, but let me say it takes more than these to get one into God's kingdom.

"Marvel not that I said unto thee ye must be born again."

Other folks seem to get the idea that if a sinner goes forward at the time of some revival meeting and shakes the preacher's hand, and by such an act identifies themselves with some church that they are fitted for the kingdom. By such an idea personal regeneration is obliterated. When personal regeneration is obliterated a distinction between the church and the world is blotted out. In consequence of which the cause of Christ has been retarded, and the tone of Christianity has been lowered. We all know that this is a fact. But beloved, none but the regenerated church can cope with the powers of darkness, none other has a mission to this fallen world.

A characteristic of the new birth or of a new creation is a new man.

In the new birth man is recreated. Paul says in Col. 3:10, "And have put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him."

In the heathen religions, the people create their gods, in the Christian religion God creates his people. In pagan systems, the people transfer their character to their deities, and as the worshippers are unchaste, untruthful, and treacherous, so their divinities are immoral, revengeful and Satanic. This saying holds true in the case of all idolaters.

David said in regard to those who create their gods and worship the same, (Psa. 115:8) "They that make them are like unto them, so is everyone that trusteth in them." But in Christianity the worshipper becomes a "partaker of the divine nature" and "is holy for God is holy."

Thus the manifestation of the new birth is—a new life. (Rom. 6:4) "Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father; even so we also should walk in newness of life." When Jesus said to men "ye must be born again" He proclaimed the most startling truth that ever fell on the ears of men. He announced the most vital transformation ever suggested to the world. He said in effect "you men are dead, you do not see, you do not hear; you do not feel, you do not know, you are alive to things of earth, but dead to the things of heaven, you are lost, you are shrouded in darkness, you are sunk in wickedness and your life is a failure. You are without God and therefore you are without hope in the world."

You may roll in luxury and revel in carnal joy, but your state is utterly sad, your spiritual house has rotted so that it can not be repaired. It must be pulled down and a new house built, and until this is done you cannot become temples for the Holy Spirit. Your purpose, your conduct, your worship, the whole trend of your lives must be changed.

This change is regeneration, and let us not forget that one must be regenerated before they can see or enter God's kingdom. Neither should we marvel at that saying says Jesus. The natural cannot produce the supernatural. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh."

There is nothing good in human nature that can produce eternal life. The apostle Paul says, "in me that is, in my flesh there dwelleth no good thing." and he further teaches most emphatically that "the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be."

The natural man then cannot meet the conditions of life, simply because he is spiritually dead. But if the Spirit of God quickens one into new life he will have a new song, which is the melody of a new creation of the new birth.

David says in Psa. 40:3, "And He hath put a new song in my

mouth, even praise unto our God, many shall see it and fear, and shall trust in the Lord."

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Mother and the Daughter

J. H. Moore

It was my first visit to the brick meetinghouse. I enjoyed the sermon very much, and made a few remarks myself. I was much pleased with the hearty greeting I received after meeting. When one is from home, it does his soul good to find kindred spirits. I accepted an invitation to dine with one of these good old deacons. His wife seemed the perfection of kindness. She introduced me to their daughter, a real intelligent young lady. I was pleased to find such an entertaining daughter in a brother's family. As we drove down the pike, she seemed perfectly delighted with some good steps taken by the District Meeting, just then over.

The carriage had hardly stopped in front the commodious house, till she was out, and passed up the graveled walk on a run. By the time I reached the house with her mother, she had the fire in the base-burner in a perfect glow, for it was yet cool, and was ready to take my overcoat and hat, and helped me to the best rocking-chair in the house. For one solid hour she entertained me in a real, brilliant way. She understood music, history, and a good stock of general information, and knew almost as much about the Brotherhood and our leading writers and preachers as I did. Her father seldom said anything, though he seemed interested. All the while I could hear the quick steps of the mother in the kitchen. I must confess that I did not altogether enjoy the conversation, for somehow I thought that the young lady ought to be out in the kitchen, helping her mother.

When we walked out into the dining-room and I saw that good old mother wiping the perspiration from her face and neck with that long blue apron, I could not help pitying her. The table was literally piled full of good things. While eating it occurred to me that it would have looked a great deal better if the young woman could have prepared the meal, and let the good old mother have a little rest. Possibly the meal might not have been as well gotten up, and then, possibly, the mother could not have entertained me so well. However let that be as it may, one thing is certain, if I had been a young man, looking for a wife, I believe I would never have stopped at that place. Somehow, I have very little confidence in daughters who will not help their mothers, and will not do what they can to make their burdens lighter.

EXCUSE

William N. Kinsley

Gen. 2:7, 15-17, 22, "The Lord God formed man, of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. But for Adam there was not found an help meet for him: And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man." Gen. 3:8-13, "They heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, where art thou? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?"

"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it" and Adam said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." So Adam made his excuse, the woman gave me to eat. Adam shifted the blame on the woman. "And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." So the woman made her excuse too. The woman saw the tree, and that it was pleasant to the eyes. This has been handed down through the ages, even to this present day. People decorate their bodies with everything that looks pleasant to the eyes, and then make flimsy excuses, that their heart is right. How about the conscience, is it void of offense toward God? What made Adam afraid of the Lord God?

I Sam. 15:22-24, "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice", or flimsy excuse. "Because thou has rejected the Word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being King. Saul said, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words; because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice." This is much the condition of this day and age, when ministers much teach and preach to suit or please their creed. Their excuse is, It is what the people want. We also find people who make flimsy excuses, why they do as they do.

When we face the judgment day, we will meet facts, there will be no excuses accepted. Heb. 4:12-13. "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even

to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight; but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

Luke 14:16-18, "A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: and sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse." I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. (This piece of ground must of been uppermost in his mind?) I pray thee have me excused. The other one said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them. I pray thee have me excused. Another said, I have married a wife, therefore I cannot come. So none of them that were bidden came. So the servant was instructed to bring in the poor, and the maimed, the halt and blind. And yet there was room, and the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways, and compel (persuade) them to come in, that my house may be filled.

The word excuse means: to declare ourselves free from blame, innocent, to reserve a reason to justify ourselves. Some Christian people try to justify themselves in anything that is old. Satan and his angels and their influences are old, they were soon after the Creation. Satan beguiled the first woman and has been in the world ever since. At the great judgment day, some will say this is what our minister taught and we adhere to him, if it be wrong he carries the responsibility. Who will plead our case at the judgment day? Some will point out church members, how they do and live as their excuse why they do not attend church or accept Christ and the conditions of salvation. You just try to do some mission work and you will hear all the excuses.

One man told me. Yes I know what the Word says, but if I do it, my family and all my friends would turn against me. He cried and said, I cannot do that. One of the man's excuses is, I want to look and dress like others. I do not want to give up the necktie, and so forth, that I will look odd. Anything that we would not give up under any consideration, is an idol. Some professing women want their hair curled, like the fashions of the world. But if all could have their way, they would be great church workers. All along the ages of history, people had excuses. Even Cain said. Must I be my brother's keeper? If some cannot find an excuse they tell the untruth.

We do not all have the same idol to worship. We know of some who had the tobacco habit and say, Yes, perhaps we could but we do

not want to. Some tell us it is good for their health, why everything that God made He pronounced very good. But we as a people misuse and abuse, many of these things. I Tim. 4:4-5, "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving. For it is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister (or witness) of Jesus Christ." A divine being can be called good, using this world's goods, but not abusing it. Many things are under the control or influence of Satan. Shall we be partakers of them?

I Cor. 10:21, "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils." Things that the devil is the instigator of are questionable. We were asked, To renounce Satan with all his pernicious ways. We said yes, when we were baptized, are we doing it? All means all, not just a part. We are to renounce Satan in all his deceptive things and ways. Some people pray, Lead me not into temptation and then go on in Satan's ways and follow their own lusts. Do you think this kind of a prayer will save you?

Jas. 1:13-15, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished bringeth forth death." Departure from the influence and power of the Holy Spirit, unless we repent and change our course, will lead to spiritual death. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation. Some are become great church leaders and are too great to confess any wrong doings. Some of the so-called Christians, deny or defy part of God's Word. Because that, when they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful. Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worship and serve the creature more than the Creator. Who is blessed forever. Have we any people like this in this day and age?

Eph. 5:17, "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is?" I Thess. 5:18, "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Are we without excuse? Luke 12:2, "For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known." Verses 47-48, "That servant, which knew his Lord's will and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes", or punishments. But he that knew not the Lord's Will, will not be excused but will be beaten with less or fewer stripes. This was one of Jesus' parables or comparisons of God's kingdom. For unto

whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required. This parable was given to the multitudes.

A certain one said unto Jesus, Lord I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. Jesus said unto another Follow me, but he said, Lord, suffer me (excuse me) I must go, and bury my father. Another also said, Lord I will follow thee: but let me first go and bid them farewell, which are home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God. We must be willing to forsake all, to serve Jesus and inherit eternal life. Jesus said, Whosoever shall receive this child in my name, receiveth me. Anyone that accepts not a child, as an angel of God, will offend the Lord. Jesus said, If any will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. He, Jesus, shall reward every man according to his works and every one who forsaketh houses, brethren, father, mother, wife, or children or lands, for my names sake shall inherit everlasting life.

Matt. 13:41, "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity." Why call me Lord, Lord, and do not the things I say? What will our excuse be? Many people are disobeying the speed laws and other laws of the land, what is their excuse? Why do not people accept Christ? Have you a reason, or is it an excuse? Why do not Christians live for him, with full surrendered heart? Excuses are sometimes speaking untruth, The apostle Paul said in Rom. 12:1, "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." But many make it an excusable service. Jesus gave His all: life, blood, tears and sufferings, beyond the conception of the human mind, to redeem fallen humanity and He is offering it to you as a free gift, an unspeakable gift. Yet with all this men make excuses for not accepting the offer, the offered terms of salvation for everlasting life.

Come, for all things are ready. My oxen and my fatlings are killed. Come unto the marriage and they would not come, but made light of it. They were too busy with the affairs of this world and they went their ways, one to the farm and another to his merchandise. The kingdom of Heaven is likened unto ten virgins, who went forth to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were, wise and five were foolish or negligent and without excuse. At midnight there was a cry made, behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him. They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage, and the door was shut.

Rev. 19:7,9, "For the marriage of the Lamb is come and his wife (the bride) hath made herself ready. And he said unto me, Write

Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." And He said unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence come they? And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Have you been to Jesus for soul cleansing? Are your garments spotless, are they white as snow? Are you washed in the soul cleansing blood of the Lamb?

Selected from Jan. 15, 1959 Bible Monitor

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE

The latest information from the Post Office is that beginning January 1, 1997, the **BIBLE MONITOR** must comply with new postal regulations. These regulations will require several changes in the way the **BIBLE MONITOR** is prepared for mailing. These changes will also require a considerable increase in mailing expenses. Those considering making donations to the Publication Board might take these new expenses into consideration. Thank you for your continued financial and prayerful support.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Lord willing, the Dallas Center Congregation is looking forward to a week's Revival Meetings, Sunday, August 4 through 11, 1996. Bro. David Skiles from Torreon Navajo Mission will be our evangelist. Evening services at 7:30. Lovefeast will be Saturday and Sunday, August 10 and 11. Please come and enjoy these services with us. Pray for Bro. David and that all of us may be encouraged to press on in these last days. Also for sinners to be brought into the fold.

Our hearts were blessed on Sunday, June 2, when two young sisters, Sis. Mary Hawbaker and Sis. Kim Meyers were received into our fellowship by Christian baptism.

Sister Arlene Flora, Cor.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank all those who remembered us with cards on our 45th anniversary. God has blessed us with forty-five happy years together. May He bless you for remembering us. Also thank you for your many words of encouragement while laboring on the mission field in Africa. May He be glorified and His will be done.

Brother Paul and Sister Mary Stump

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1996

August 4 - "A Pound of Ointment" - John 12:1-11; James 5:14-15.

1. Why did Mary anoint the feet of Jesus?
2. What are the purposes of anointing the sick today?

August 11 - "The Hour Is Come" - John 12:12-36.

1. How did Jesus say we can identify His servants?
2. How can we be the Children of Light?

August 18 - Salvation and Judgement - John 12:37-50.

1. Who blinded the eyes and hardened the hearts of those who did not believe?
2. Why did Jesus come into the world?

August 25 - The Ordinance of Feet Washing - John 13:1-17.

1. Why should we wash one another's feet?
2. How can washing only our feet make us "clean every whit?"

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1996

August 4 - Guidance - Ps. 23:1-6, Matt. 11:27-30, Luke 1:73-79, John 16:13-14.

1. Why does the Lord lead us "in the paths of righteousness?"
2. Into what will the Holy Spirit guide us?

August 11 - Flattery - Job 32:20-22, Ps. 78:35-38, Prov. 28:21-25, Mark 12:13-17.

1. Explain the difference between flattery and respect.
2. How did Jesus respond to those who tried to flatter Him?

August 18 - Half Heartedness - II Kings 10:30-31, Luke 14:16-27, Acts 28:23-27, Heb. 2:1-3.

1. How do excuses often illustrate our half-heartedness?
2. What is the Reward for half-heartedness?

August 25 - Our Difficulties - I Sam. 12:15-25, Phil 2:12-21, Rev. 3:14-22.

1. How do we often bring difficulties upon ourselves?
2. Whom does God rebuke and chasten?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 15

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GOD'S LOVE-BEAM

The love of God
Sends forth a beam
That's seen and felt and heard.
It goes beyond
What can be seen
But shows up in His Word.

Christ proved His love
When sent to earth
To show us how to live.
His blood atones,
And second birth
Can wash away our sin.

I pray He fills
Me to the brim
With His great love divine—
And that I'll walk
Along with Him
Until His home is mine.

-Irene Stout

PERMISSIVENESS

We live in a world of confusion. Compromise and equivocation are equated with love and mercy. Discipline and obedience are thought to be legalistic and intolerant. Unfortunately these attitudes are not only prevalent in the society around us, but are too often found within the Church. If the Church is merely a reflection of the surrounding society, how can she be a lighthouse sending out the beams of God's Love to a lost and dying race?

Today, we are harvesting the results of past advocacy of permissiveness. People lack self-discipline. Everyone wants what he wants right now. This attitude brings indebtedness. They do not want to earn the needed money over a period of time, so they borrow. By the time a major purchase is paid for, it is worn out. Not only does permissiveness affect personal finances, it affects education. The goal of most students is not to learn but to receive a diploma. Easy, unstructured classes are established so each student can achieve his goal. Discipline has nearly disappeared from the public schools. Too often the students run the school more than the administrators and the Boards of Education. This lack of self-discipline affects the nation's crime rate. When people see something they want, instead of earning it, they steal it. Others, even more desperate, will kill to get what they want. The Biblical ideal of self-control and sobriety have been rejected, so we live in an unchurched and immoral society.

Unfortunately this spirit of permissiveness has gotten into the Church. Every man chooses to do what is right in his own eyes. He determines what is permissible. He made solemn vows to give and

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receive counsel, but he makes his own decisions in his daily life. He promised to work with his congregation, but will have his own way, if they do not yield to his desire.

Progressing into new areas is not always wrong. When the time for change comes, it needs to be approached by the Body not by individuals acting on their own plan. This involves seeking counsel and consensus.

Permissiveness gains control over a period of time. It does not happen all at once.

Permissiveness might be viewed, by some, as Christian love in action. Instead it may be the opposite of true Christian love. Christian love seeks what is the best for each member. The best may not be the most obvious course of action. It may involve some hard choices. It may involve waiting. It may involve self-discipline and the discipline of the Body.

Discipline is not pleasant. The function of Church discipline is not punishment. Sometimes people lose sight of the true use of discipline. The goal of discipline is the restoration and repentance of the member. Love will accomplish its work if it is not diluted with compromise or vindictiveness.

The desire for a greater number of members can hamper the application of loving discipline. This desire leads to accommodation to attract numbers. Ironically, this spirit of compromise over time may work against that goal. As compromise becomes more evident, there will be a weaker draw upon others. Although people may not proclaim it loudly, there is a searching for a Body that will maintain a loving discipline and stand for the teachings of the Word of God. People have seen the results of an age of permissiveness, they want something better in their Christian lives.

Discipline means that a judgment has been rendered. Whether a parent disciplines a child or the Body disciplines a member, a judgment has been made. The parent may decide on the spur-of-the-moment that discipline is needed by the child. That discipline is delivered to dissuade that child from further unwise activity. The discipline of the Church must be more fully considered. There must be time allotted for a change of heart. Once that time has passed, it is time for discipline to be administered. Since restoration and repentance are the goals of this discipline, the discipline must fit the situation.

When discipline has accomplished its goal, the Body should be merciful. After judgment has been made and the discipline has been pronounced, mercy is the need. Each has received Grace and Mercy from God. None would have access to the plan of salvation if it were

not for the Grace of God. None could repent of their sins, if it were not for God's Mercy. Because all in the Body have received mercy, they should extend that mercy to those who have erred and have benefited by the application of loving discipline.

Permissiveness has wrought confusion in the world. It can not be allowed to also wreck the Church.

M.C.Cook

HEAR WITH UNDERSTANDING

Nehemiah 8:2, "And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month."

The gift of hearing is a wonderful blessing from God. Although we do not hear as clearly and as sharply as we could, we cannot fathom what it would be like not to be able to hear at all. Yet, perhaps a greater tragedy would be to be able to hear and not understand what we were hearing.

We are living in the age of grace, not law, but we are still responsible to hear the Word of God with understanding. While women are not to be in a place of leadership according to Scripture, both men and women are responsible for correct understanding when they hear the Word of God expounded.

We can hear a conversation between two individuals in a foreign language distinctly and yet have no comprehension of what they are discussing. By the same token, some individuals seem to be able to sit in worship service after service and not understand what is being conveyed.

In verse 6 of this chapter we read, "And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground." We realize that most Brethren are not very emotional in their worship. But we hope that the reason so few "amens" are heard in services is not that many are hearing without understanding. On the other hand, we have been in services where loud "amens" were frequent and we are reasonably sure that it was the loud and demonstrative preaching that brought them forth rather than agreement with what was being said. When we hear with understanding the center of our worship will be on the Lord.

In verse 8 of this chapter we read, "So they (the leaders) read in the book of the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading."

We are very grateful for the place that the reading of the Word of God has in our Brethren services. We are told that some churches do not even read the Bible in some services but use other sources for their sermon introductions. While we may all have our times of mis-reading a word or have difficulty with a name or place in Scripture, we should strive to read the Word of God as distinctly as we can. We are also grateful for the use of the King James Version in our services.

To gain understanding our preachers have to give the sense of what their text is saying. There are times when certain portions of Scripture are used on a regular basis for certain events. While some may see this as needless repetition we believe there is merit in this practice. It is true that all of the Bible is the Word of God and is good for exhortation. But it has been proven that such a portion as the teaching of the prayer veil was discontinued in reading at the Love Feast examination service before the prayer veil (or covering as some prefer) was set aside. The same is true of our other Scriptural Brethren teachings and practices. If our leaders do not preach and teach them they will eventually be lost.

It is the responsibility of those in leadership to "cause them to understand the reading." We are not opposed to using an amusing story or illustration to keep the attention of the congregation. The responsibility of a preacher is not to entertain his audience. It is to proclaim the Word of God in power and understanding. Then it is the responsibility of those listening to try to grasp what the speaker is trying to put forth.

There are two primary reasons that it is important to hear with understanding. The first of these is that salvation is brought about by a correct understanding of scripture. This is why the Brethren reject Infant baptism. Historically, baptism was understood to be the last step in salvation. An infant can not understand nor respond to the Word of God.

Secondly, a correct hearing with understanding allows us to walk in truth. Truly, we are living in a day of religious confusion. We must seek the leading of the Holy Spirit daily to avoid error. May our sincere desire be to hear with understanding.

Brother James M. Hite
816 Birch St.
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1996 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Saturday Morning Worship

Bro. Ray Reed. Golden Text of the Bible, John 3:16, I Cor. 5:13-21.

Have we really been reconciled to our God? We have the light; the light of the world is Jesus. Satan is overpowering. I Cor. 4:1-2.

Bro. Edward Johnson closed with prayer.

Saturday P.M.

Bro. Dennis Myers opened. Psalm 80. As we look at our lives, how often do we feel we ought to be turned? Sometimes, in our spiritual life we may need to turn around.

Bro. Fred Johnson. Becoming a Profitable Servant. Philemon. Under the Apostle Paul, Philemon became more profitable. Something makes a change in our lives to make us a profitable servant. Jesus had a great love for us. The Apostle Paul prayed that Philemon would be a great servant. Philemon was a run-away slave in the beginning. He made a change so he would be more beneficial. We should try to be a profitable servant for God. To be profitable for the Lord, we will be willing to work for Christ. We should make ourselves profitable in the work of God. We should teach our children the Holy Word. We should make our wrongs right if we have done anything wrong to anyone, so we can have a peaceful mind. Our Lord Jesus gave His all for us. He shed His blood for us so we can be that profitable servant and work for Him and live a righteous life.

Bro. Kevin Funk. I Kings 6:7. Are we Ready to Get Ready? Are we ready to meet the Lord? Are we getting ready? Are we willing to be that profitable servant? Matthew 25:1-10. The ones that heeded the Master's call were ready for the Master's call before the doors closed. A willing member in the church can easily be changed if he follows the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can change us, if we allow God to work in our lives. We should be a people ready to meet Christ when He comes again. Are you willing to build upon the found altar of God and maintain the Holy Word? We must have ourselves ready for the Lord.

Bro. Mark Cordrey closed. Allow God to help us get ready to meet Him. Are you ready? II Timothy 2:19-21. The real power in us is with God. Get ready to meet Him.

Saturday Evening

Bro. Henry Walker opened. I John 3. Our hope should be that we will be in that resurrection. Welcome home since you have lived faithful. Christ died for us so we could become sons and daughters.

Bro. Warren Smith. The Christian Armor. Eph. 6:10-18. We are living in evil days. Let us put on the armor of God. We need a strengthening of our faith. How do I stand in the sight of God? Put on the whole armor of God. What are our goals? Are we a prepared people to meet Christ when He comes? We should restrain ourselves

from the sins of the world. Are we putting on the whole armor of God and repenting from the evil things of the world? The devil tries us today; that's the reason we need the whole armor of God. Satan deceives many people in a cunning way. He tried to deceive Job, but Job had too much integrity to listen to Satan. Jesus said, "My words will never pass away." Rev. 3:20. We should have the whole armor of God in our lives and live true to the Holy Word. Which part of the armor of God could we leave off? None; it takes it all. Put on the whole armor of God.

Bro. Paul Stump closed. Have you put on the whole armor of God to keep Satan from deceiving you? With the great armor of God, we have God with us.

Sunday Morning Worship

Bro. Robert Lehigh. Eph. 4:11-16. The Church should work together for Christ. We need the prayers of each other. Members of the Church should have great love for each other and be willing to work together. The Bible is our guide in our Church. We should work for the goal of Jesus Christ.

Sunday A.M.

Bro. Gene Kauffman opened. Eph. 6:1-10. We should instruct our children in the way of the Lord.

Bro. Frank Shaffer. Preserving Faithfulness in the Midst of Deteriorating Morals. Gen. 5:10. Noah built the ark to save the faithful people from the flood. Lot was saved while all the people were in great sin and lost. People have forgotten God. Titus 11:11-14. God has great love for all people. We should turn our life over to God and live for Him. We should deny ungodliness and disown having any part of it. Having the Holy Spirit living in our lives, keeps our lives happier. Are we on fire for God, teaching our children to be faithful servants for Him? We should live the Ten Commandments. Do we teach the Ten Commandments to our children?

Bro. Ray Stuber. Preserving Faithfulness in the Midst of Exploding Technology. II Tim. 3. Can we preserve faithfulness? Not all change is wrong. The Apostle Paul made it clear that we need to be content with what we have. Many people are lovers of pleasures more than of God. We need earnestly not forget God. The Word of God will help us preserve faithfulness. Stand fast and close to God.

Bro. David Skiles closed. We have a great God who abideth faithfully. May God help us to live faithfully in this world of modern technology.

Sunday P.M.

Bro. Marlin Marks opened. John 8:31-32. We need to know the

truth. Jesus is the way of truth. John 16:13. We are going to be shown the truth through Christ.

Bro. Milton Cook. Preserving Faithfulness in the Midst of Religious Confusion. John 4:1-6. There are many spirits. We should remain faithful in the midst of religious confusion. Who is Jesus Christ? We live in a day of Christian error. The gift of God was His Son teaching us how to gain eternal life. Which way are we choosing to go? The broad way or the narrow way? The Apostle Paul was in a great shipwreck. Paul told the people to listen to him and they would be saved. We should be careful and not look towards the easy way. What are we doing today? Are we the Pauls or are we the Jonahs? Both survived the shipwreck and remained steadfast and faithful in religious confusion. We are in need of Bible study. Learn to know what the Bible says. Prayer is very important; be in communication with God. We need fellowship. It is important we know what we believe and why we believe it. We should try to live true and faithful in the midst of religious confusion.

Bro. Robert Carpenter. Preserving Faithfulness in the Midst of Changing Vocational Opportunities. Gen. 3, Luke 19:1-9, Eph. 4:28. We know we are admonished to work. There is a purpose in vocation that we might be willing to share. Many people have vocations. The publican in the Bible was a tax collector. In our jobs or vocations, we should be careful to stay faithful to Christ's teachings. We should be careful in our vocations. There are two ways to look at vocations to which we are called. Stay plain and faithful to the teaching of Jesus. I Kings 18:1-9.

Bro. Merle Sweitzer closed. Lots of people in the world are in confusion. They do not have Christ in their lives.

To be continued
Sister Alice Heisey

HOW SATAN DECEIVES IN THE MODERN CHURCH

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Eph. 5:11.

The devil has always mixed truth with error. This is his strong suit. The byword in today's "politically correct" society is "unity in diversity." This is an unofficial motto in the World Council of Churches. Many churchmen have always taught that we must compromise with the world in order to win the world. Ecumenicists say, "Lay aside your differences and come together."

But the Bible says, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will

receive you." II Corinthians 6:17. There are many organizations today that do a lot of good, but they mix truth with error. One organization, called the Promise Keepers, has really made a name for itself. But they embrace Catholics and Mormons and the like as fellow-Christians, and that we should not do. We must uphold the holiness of the Word, and we must, as the Word commands us, speak the truth in love.

Years ago the Brethren would get together with folks of differing persuasions and debate. I have an old book here at home called the Riggle-Kesler Debate. It was written in 1915 and contains the entire transcription of several debates between Brother B. E. Kesler and (Elder) H. M. Riggle of the Church of God. Our Brother Kesler, in these debates, was faithful to God's Word and clearly defined the position of the Church. Today, unfortunately, there is little debating. People, in the modern spirit of the Age, are laying aside their differences. They are entering upon "dialogs" between groups in an effort to "understand" one another. I was taught from little on up that if you let the camel get his nose into the tent, after a while the whole camel is in the tent. We cannot afford to give up scriptural practices in order to "get along." We must mind the Lord.

Unfortunately, man's nature being the way it is, we often have to spend some time in the desert before we understand the true value of water. What is the value of truth? We can soon find out its value by first seeing what it is. Psalm 119:142 says, "...thy law is truth." John 14:6 says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jesus is speaking. If you want a place in heaven, you are going to have to go in through the door. That door is Christ. He alone is the way. We cannot allow truth to be mingled with error. Truth must remain pure.

We are admonished in Philippians 4 that whatsoever things are pure, we should think on these things. We cannot be teased by the works of darkness, but rather, we must stand up to the devil. There is no greater task for the Christian than to make heaven his home.

The happy shore, on Eden's plains,
The realms of endless day,
Are far removed from earthly pains,
Unseen by mortal clay.

We'll gird our loins, my brethren dear,
Our heavenly home discerning;
Our absent Lord has left us word,
Let every lamp be burning.

Should coming days be cold and dark,
We need not cease our singing;
That perfect rest naught can molest,
Where golden harps are ringing.

Let sorrow's rudest tempest blow,
Each chord on earth to sever,
Our king says come, and there's our home,
Forever, Oh, forever!

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 1, 1936

CHRISTIAN COMFORT

Paul R. Myers

In times of need, trial and affliction, a Christian has an inward feeling of security, peace and rest that a child of the world is quite unfamiliar with.

Christ says, My peace I leave with you. And again, I will send you a comforter. This comforter is the Holy Spirit working in a man's being. It is the ever present comforter and guide along life's pathway.

If there would be no promise of a reward to the faithful in the next world, a true Christian possesses, in this life, a state of security, invaluable, unestimateable, worthy of all sacrifice made for it. Yet, it is ours, free, paid by our Savior, and all we are asked is, Come, partake of it freely.

While we have the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit in this life, our outstanding comfort shall be more fully realized when the hour of death strikes, and we hear the voice of the Savior say, "Come up higher, enter into the joys of the Lord."

Several of Christ's institutions, if carried out according to scripture, are for the strengthening and building up of this comfort.

Baptism, administered to a sin-filled soul, cleanses it from all sin. What in its place could answer the same purpose? Nothing. Jesus gave us an example, being baptized of John in the River Jordan. Not that Jesus needed the baptism for the remission of sins, but that we might abide by His example.

Therefore, a re-born person, baptized for the remission of sins, has a wonderful comfort that he through the administering of this ordinance

according to the scripture, has his sins washed white as snow.

After a man has been baptized, in his daily walks of life, he is confronted with sin daily. We are only human, and it is human to err. But again we have a comfort that if we are willing to confess our sins, He is willing to forgive us our sins.

We must confess our sins to God through prayer. We have a comfort in prayer that a non-Christian does not have. In God's word we read that He does not tire of our oft coming to Him. His virtue and power is none the less, even if we call upon Him incessantly. Every true Christian fully comprehends the value and need of prayer. Prayer offered in faith and if we be in proper relation with God is our means of direct communication with Him.

The fact that God does not always answer prayer when and how we wish, does not lessen the value of prayer.

We may ask contrary to His will, and He being the great Judge will answer, not as we may wish possibly, but in a way that will be for our best.

Prayer is our daily means of being in contact and communication with God. Then we have occasions of being enriched by obeying His ordinances of feet washing, Lord's Supper, and communion. Properly taken and administered, the obeying of these ordinances restores a Christian, in the sight of God, as clean and pure as the day he was baptized.

What comfort a Christian can have when he has the opportunity of partaking of these glorious privileges, knowing that they were ordained by God and that they are a manifestation of God's care for His people.

The above privileges and duties are for each Christian to be enriched along life's pathway. The Bible does not hold out the thought that the body will not be subject to sickness or disease. True, Christians as well as the non-Christian shall suffer bodily afflictions.

But in times of such, a Christian again possesses a hope and a comfort not realized by a child of the world. In James 5:14 we read, "If there is any sick among you, let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." This anointing is for the remission of sins and for the strengthening of the body, if it be God's will.

From the day of our baptism until the day of our death, we have a comforting thought, that if we are right toward God and our fellowman, we have assurance that God will be with us. This is not only a spoken axiom, but if we are in the faith, it is a fully realized fact, fully felt within.

The Bible says, "It is appointed unto man once to die, and after

death the judgment." The true Christian comfort is to be fully visioned and realized when we part this life and hear God's voice applaud us and say, "Come up higher."

We need not hesitate about accepting the true religion of Jesus Christ, because, as I said in the beginning, if our only hope was in this life, the comfort and satisfaction derived from it would more than repay any effort spent for it. But our true comfort lies in the day of judgment, when Christ will intercede in our behalf and when we shall be numbered with the white robed throng, and forever be with the Lord.

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Child's Commentary

J. H. Moore

In nine cases out of ten the father and mother are the commentaries by which their small children interpret the Holy scripture. They soon learn that their parents belong to the church, and are not long in falling in with their ways of thinking. They at once favor the church where father and mother worship, and, as they advance in years, imbibe, to a certain extent, the doctrine held by them.

By and by the children begin to study their parents. They will commence studying their parents before they read the Bible. They know that they belong to church, that they hold to certain doctrines, believing that a certain thing is right, and, on the other hand, that another thing is wrong. The time was when the children thought what their father and mother believed was all right, but as they grow still older and their minds become more mature, they look at things differently. They wonder whether this, that, and the other thing, are really right! It does not look just that way to them. They wonder whether it is in keeping with the teachings of the New Testament, and on learning that it is not, it is a question in their minds whether to denounce the book or to doubt the sincerity of their parents.

For years—while younger—they had been interpreting the Bible by their parents. To them their mother had been a walking commentary. Their father had served as a guide post, pointing in the direction leading to heaven and happiness. But now they are reading father and mother closer. They see in their conduct something they never specially noticed before. They hear them use bywords and sometimes other words not becoming a devout Christian. Then they talk unkindly about their neighbors. They frequently abuse, or rather talk abusively of some of the members in the church. They may even say some hard things about the preachers, and also about the elder, whose dealings are not

at all times above question. They notice that their parents lack in religious zeal, as well as in devotion to the church and her work. At meeting they sometimes hear father or mother pray, but at home never. At church they often see them singing like angels, but at home hear them scold and say many unkind things.

The commentary that first delighted and encouraged them has now proved a puzzle. Must they lose faith in their parents, or must they lose faith in the Bible? If they lose faith in their parents, then the early living commentary is gone. It can no more be a help to them in religion. If they surrender the Bible, then they look upon their parents as having been deceived, and religion can have no consideration upon their part. They have become skeptical, and are hopelessly lost. All this is due to the unfaithful lives of their parents.

How much better it would be for their children could parents only set before them the true light! Blessed is the child whose father or mother is a true and reliable commentary on the New Testament. They early learn to read their parents. They learn this long before they can read anything in the Bible. Now, if, in after-years, they find the manner of life of their parents in perfect harmony with the teachings of the Sacred Volume, then they will have confidence, not only in those who brought them into the world, but also in the Book. Parents need only study their subject in order to understand its bearing on the rising generation. They can see how their conduct may lead to the salvation of their children or may be the means of driving them farther away from the kingdom. May God help all the parents truly to become living epistles—living commentaries—for the guidance and comfort of their children.

CHILDREN OF LIGHT

Howard J. Surbey

I wonder if we have ever realized that as individuals who have accepted Christ, there is a vast difference between us and the general run of human beings?

"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. Let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." 1 Thess. 5:5-6, 8.

The sins, methods of dealing with men, expressions, and any other way which might bring shame and disgrace, are usually carried on in the night. Especially until one becomes so hardened to them that they no more bring shame. However, notice that we are not living in night—darkness—but in light—day.

"But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings." Mal. 4:2. "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12.

First a fear or reverence for God was impressed upon us. Then the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shined upon our hearts and we followed it with the result that we now are walking in the light and not in our sins.

"The people that walk in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death upon them hath the light shined." Isa. 9:2. "While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light." John 12:36. Think for a moment how important light is to you in your everyday life. The expense that man uses that he may have it whenever and wherever he wants it. Without light of any kind, man is almost useless and is not sensible to dangers or duties.

Just so spiritual light makes us aware of the naturally unseen. Even a glimpse into the light of the glorious light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ makes us aware of some things eternal. The more of that light that anyone can assimilate and have at his command the deeper one can see into the eternal.

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light." Eph. 5:8. Do we question that we have sinned, no. Do we question that Christ is the light of the world and able to light our lives, no. Why not walk as children of light?

Are we sober, if not, the light will do us no good. Let us watch and be ready. Grow in Faith and in Love. "He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him." I John 2:9.

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ." Titus 2:13.

Selected from August 15, 1947 issue of Bible Monitor

NEWS ITEMS NOTICE

The new Treasurer of the Bible Study Board is Bro. Rick St. John, 2578 County Road 20-2, Archbold, OH 43502. Continue to send contributions for the Bible Study Board to the secretary, Bro. Dennis St. John, 21397 County Road B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Waynesboro Congregation is looking forward to Revival Services, September 1 through September 8, 1996, with Bro. Eugene Kauffman from Dayton, Virginia.

We extend a hearty invitation to all, to join us for these services in prayer and attendance, that we would be strengthened and the lost saved.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, Pleasant Ridge Congregation, Ohio, plans a Harvest Meeting on September 8, 1996, with morning services.

Also, we are planning a Lovefeast on October 12 and 13. Morning services at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, afternoon services at 2:00 P.M. and evening services at 7:00 P.M. Services continue on Sunday morning at 9:30 A.M.

All are welcome to come and worship with us.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation invites you to our Fall Revival Meetings, September 22 through 29. Bro. David Rice from Englewood, Ohio will be our evangelist. Pray that saints are strengthened and sinners give their hearts to the Lord and hand to the Church.

Sister Fern Wolfe, Cor.

NOTICE

We at the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church School, Bethel, Pennsylvania are in need of teachers for the 1996-1997 school term. We need teachers for Kindergarten, fifth and sixth, and seventh through twelfth. If anyone would be interested, would they please call either Brother Harold Kegerreis or Brother David Aungst. We would ask anyone interested to prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve the Lord.

Bro. David Aungst, chairman 717-345-6588

Bro. Harold Kegerreis, secretary 717-933-4743

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the beautiful cards on our 50th Anniversary. Your thoughtfulness was really appreciated.

May God richly bless you.

Brother Lawrence and Sister Etta Clayton

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXIV

AUGUST 15, 1996

NO. 16

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WHAT LACK I YET

What lack I yet? Dear Lord, show me;

Is it to love more heartily?

Or is it faith and trust in Thee?

What lack I yet, my God to see?

Is it patience with fellowman?

Or, with myself, to Satan ban?

Help me to walk with Christ each day,

My feet keep on the narrow way.

Lord, where I lack, wilt Thou supply?

Fill those places before I die?

Then by Thy grace at home I'll be

With Thee throughout eternity.

-Irene Stout

WHAT LACK I YET?

The rich, young ruler came to Jesus hoping to receive His commendation. He had kept the commandments. He thought that would be enough to gain the favor of Jesus. As Jesus quizzed him about his life and habits, he was pretty confident that he had done all necessary to gain Jesus' approval. As Jesus probed more deeply within his life, he could think of nothing more that he could have done. Almost forlornly he asked what he yet lacked that would secure the favor that he sought.

Jesus' answer hit the mark far better than he might have wished. His riches had become a barrier to the total yielding of his life. While he had kept the law to the letter, he had failed to observe the spirit of it. He could observe ordinances, but he would not yield to the practical, giving side of following God's Word. When Jesus suggested the necessity of giving away all of his possessions, he was not willing to go that far. He was willing to do many things, but he was not willing to be poor so he would have to depend upon God for his well-being. With his riches to sustain him, he was self-sufficient.

A self-sufficient man is not sold out to God. He is able to take care of himself. He does not need to depend upon God for his daily bread.

His riches had become his dearest god. He was not willing to part with them, although they would ultimately cause him to fail to receive the prize, he so earnestly craved. He cared more for his riches than the destiny of his soul.

He was not the first nor the last to have mixed-up priorities. When he thought he was so amply provided for, he was actually the poorest

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of men. Heavenly treasures are worth far more than all the perishable riches of this world. Although they may seem secure, the riches of this world can take flight and disappear. Family incidents may cause financial reverses that can turn riches into poverty. National and world events within can destroy fortunes built over many years. Financial panics or political turmoil can affect the solidity of an individual's wealth. A depression can ruin a business that supplied wealth to its owners. War or political unrest can ruin businesses. Bank failures and stock market crashes can lessen fortunes thought to be untouchable.

Some people view wealth as a sign of God's favor. The rich, young ruler may have thought he was rich because he had tried his best to keep the law. Jesus wanted that wealth to be used for more than just his creature comfort. Today, many confuse their wealth with God's commendation. A Christian lifestyle may contribute to the gathering of riches. When the costly habits of the world are shunned and a plain and simple lifestyle is chosen, there is a tremendous decrease in the cost of living. That which is saved becomes a building block of wealth.

Many who have gained riches have done so with a desire to serve God. Others have gained riches, but have had no regard for God. Their wealth has come through various means, ethical and unethical. They may, as an after thought, give God thanks for their wealth, although it was garnered by ungodly means.

A Christian may use riches for good causes. Many charities have been financed by Christians. They wanted to return a portion of their wealth to those less fortunate than themselves. They could perhaps remember when they too had been without financial means. Jesus would commend that use of wealth.

Money given in this way may be very useful and a means of honoring God. There is, unfortunately, a tendency to receive the honor of men for these gifts rather than honoring God, the giver of every good and perfect gift. Modesty may be overcome in a moment of weakness, when the gift becomes publicized.

When the rich, young ruler asked, What lack I yet? The issue was more than just the dispensing of his possessions to the poor. It was an issue of trusting God to the fullest. It boiled down to whether he would trust in his riches or he would trust in God. Which would have the highest priority in his life?

Trusting in God, ultimately, leads to the necessity of accepting Jesus Christ as the Anointed Savior. Trusting God for the material and physical provisions of life is a good thing. Far more important is

trusting God for the redemption and salvation of the soul. This is the greatest gift that can come to man from God. Man's greatest trust is for his soul's salvation. Without this dependence upon God, all other issues of life shrink into insignificance.

Have you asked the question, What lack I yet?

M.C.Cook

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

U.F.O.'s, Bermuda Triangle and the Abominable Snowman!

In recent years, a strong reaction against the rationalistic, materialism of our scientific age has caused many Christians and other people to be fascinated with reports of strange and unexplained phenomena. The tremendous popularity of books and programs about U.F.O.'s, the Bermuda Triangle and the Abominable Snowman are evidence of a remarkable spirit of credulity today. It seems we are eager to believe in almost anything as long as we do not have to believe in the full reality of the Bible and its truths.

What are some facts associated with these reports and how should we as Christians react to them? The Christian is not rationalistic in the sense that we reject even the possibility of the supernatural. God is omnipotent, therefore, miracles are certainly a reality. In addition, the Bible teaches the reality of many invisible powerful spirit beings, both angels and demons.

I believe a healthy skepticism about such phenomena is appropriate until there is firm and conclusive evidence as to what they are. You can reject two common interpretations immediately. First, they do not relate to physical creatures from other planets. Second, they are not associated with half-human, half-animal products of evolutionary processes on this planet.

Whatever may be the real nature of "Bigfoot", it is not a creature intermediate between man and the ape. God's Word teaches us that man is uniquely created in the image of God and all animals are lower than man and under his dominion. Regardless of evolutionary speculations, the Scripture is the only reliable source of explanation. It is possible these creatures are some form of a giant ape or the like, if they, in reality, do exist.

The idea of U.F.O.'s being interplanetary vehicles controlled by some humanoid beings from outer space is equally impossible. God prepared planet earth as a unique home for man and it is on this planet, Earth, that God Himself will dwell eternally. (Rev. 21:1-3)

Even if there were humanoid beings on other hypothetical planets,

it is absurd to reason that they would be traveling back and forth to our planet. The nearest star is four light years away and it is unrealistic to think that space vehicles could be designed to travel at speeds even distantly approaching the speed of light.

Researchers have shown that the great majority of U.F.O. sightings can be explained as atmospheric phenomena, weather balloons, airplanes, light reflections on clouds, gaseous effusions, military test vehicles and so forth. Some are probably even hoaxes or imagination.

Researchers have also shown that the infamous "Bermuda Triangle" is not a reality. The search for supernatural or preternatural explanations is absurd. Christ, when He was on Earth, rebuked those who were always looking for "signs and wonders." Even though Satan and his angels possess power and knowledge, they are only finite creatures and can do no more than God allows them to do.

The Bible DOES prophesy that there will be an increase in demonic activity in the last days. It also indicates that unusual phenomena will increase in this time. Thus, we can not completely dismiss the possibility that some of these things are demonic in nature. They might well be associated with spiritism, astrology and psychic phenomena. The phenomena always attracts those who are looking outside of God for the answers to the creation and the harmony of the Universe. Whether these tales are merely examples of human imagination and gullibility or whether they are involved in demonism, clearly all such connections should be avoided by Christians. Our only involvement in them should be to prayerfully and carefully deliver others who have become involved in them.

Brother Len Wertz

1996 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Continued from August 1, 1996 Issue

Sunday Evening

Bro. Jim Meyers opened. Potential-time. I Kings 20:1-4. "He that will lose his life for my sake shall gain it."

Bro. Phil Gish. To the young people. I John 2:13, 5:4-5, Luke 11:9-13, Prov. 16:32. Five Wrecks. Do you have control over your heart and soul?

Wreck #1 — Economic and Material Wealth. We should handle our finances with the Word of God. Are we interested in Christian Worship instead of worldly amusements?

Wreck #2 — Lack of Shame. Every believer should carry shame.

Don't ever back away from shame.

Wreck #3 — Lack of Pain. Pain is God's trumpet. Suffer pain for Jesus. Seek the Lord and His teachings.

Wreck #4 — No Plimsoll Mark (a set of lines or a line on a ship showing the water level to which they may legally be loaded). Stay in the perimeter of God's love, or you will end up in a wreck. Continue ye in my love.

Wreck #5 — Temptation. I Cor. 10:13. Temptation is controlled by the devil, who is very deceiving. We should keep ourselves under control or else Satan will devour us. The Lord has control of our lives. Satan will not tempt you more than you can stand. Get rid of the sin in your life. We need to control our temper and stay away from alcohol or any other sin in our lives.

Bro. Paul Ness closed. God can help us in our troubles.

Monday Morning Worship

Bro. Leonard Wertz. I Peter 2:5-10. We need to follow the narrow path that leads to heaven. Without God, there is no life. God speaks to us through His Word, the Bible. Man is created in the image of God. God gave us Jesus that we might gain life eternal through Christ's teaching. We believe life is sacred. Praise God that the Old Time Religion consists of honest believers. Let's be godly and live true and faithful.

Monday A.M.

Bible Study. Adults: The Church — A Tempered Body. I Cor. 12. Children: A Blind Man Receives Sight. John 9:1-38.

Bro. Tom St. John. I Cor. 12, II Cor. 3:16. The Bible is the inspired Word of God. There are many happenings in the Bible. Do you believe these? Yes, we believe every story in the Bible. All scriptures are given by God. God has preserved the Holy Scriptures throughout all these years. Satan tries to change people's minds on the Bible. There is a lot of religious confusion. The many versions of the Bible cause much confusion. The new versions have taken on the New Age movement. We serve the real God that we read about in the King James Version. Lucifer was cast down from heaven. This man is Satan, a very deceiving man. He wants to destroy our faith in God and His only Son, Christ Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the bright and morning star." Be very cautious when reading the new versions of the Bible. Our God has preserved the true word in the King James Version.

Bro. David Aungst closed. The King James version of the Bible is the Word of Truth.

Monday P.M.

Bro. Kenny Wilkerson opened. I Peter 3:7-13. Do we hate evil enough? Make sure the influence of our family is pure in our homes with our family. Bad influence from magazines can be very harmful to our children's minds and lead them in the wrong way.

Bro. David Rice. Despise Not the Little Ones. Romans 8:28. What is the image of Jesus Christ? Matthew 18:1-10. Christ came to save all of them that are lost. When He speaks of the little ones, He also means everyone that comes to Jesus and whose souls are saved. John 15:18-19. Christ said, "They hated me, and they will also hate you." Romans 2:1. Do not judge a man. We are not to despise anyone. We should make peace with our enemies. Jesus did not despise the sinners. He tried to help them and reasoned with them to change so they, too, could get their souls saved. ETC stands for Esteem, Treasure, and Cherish. Christ helped people when they were in need.

Bro. Gordon Jamison. I Peter 1. What does God expect of us today? What is God looking for in our lives? God looks on the heart. Job was a perfect man. God is looking for perfection in our lives. The Apostle Paul was struck down by God, while going to Damascus. The Apostle Paul made a complete change and worked for God. Jesus died on the cross so that we can be saved by His teachings in the Bible. We need to give our all to gain that eternal home. God brings everyone of us to the foot of the cross. Christ died for us so we can get to heaven. Hold on to the Savior's hand; He will lead us to eternal life if we allow Him. Christ said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." Let's be a Holy people and live for Christ and His teachings.

Bro. Fred Johnson closed.

Monday Evening

Bro. Virgil Leatherman opened. Isaiah 40:1-9. The eagles shall renew their strength. Eagles fly to the top of the mountain. A storm takes them up in the air above the storm. It is nature's way of protecting the eagle. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Wait upon the Lord.

Bro. John Pepper. Beware Lest. Matt. 7:15. Beware of false prophets, men, scribes, evil workers, and Pharisees who loved the praise of men rather than of God. Beware of that Doctrine. David was a man after God's own heart. David was the greatest king to reign. Beware of the sins of the times. We need for God to speak to us.

Bro. Harley Flory. Gnats and Camels. Matt. 23:24. The Pharisees were great for tithing one tenth of everything that men produced.

What we promise God is important. We need to be careful of little trivial things. Jesus said, "Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat and swallow a camel." Jesus showed the Pharisees that they were in error. II Sam. 12. How serious is judgment? God is no respecter of persons. Forgiveness is part of the mercy of God. James 2:12. Faith. Heb. 11. Faith, Hope, and Charity. Charity is love. We are living in freedom before God. Jesus said, "When I come again, will I find faith on the earth?" Keep that faith and work for the Lord.

Bro. Frank Shaffer, Sr. closed. Watch the gnats and keep them strained out.

To be continued
Sister Alice Heisey

I WILL SEARCH MY SHEEP

Ezekiel 34:11, "For thus saith the Lord God: Behold, I even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out."

Jeremiah 29:13, "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

It is wonderful to know that God searches out His sheep and finds them when they are wondering astray, before they have any knowledge of Him. He seeks us out and finds us even when we are not looking for Him! There is a lot of confusion today in religious circles concerning God and man. Who seeks whom? Who finds whom? The scriptures are clear about a lot of things that folks refuse to see. Take baptism for instance. The Bible is so clear that baptism means immersion, and repeated immersion, yet it is so clear that a lot of people who would like to believe otherwise will miss it. The same thing happens with the relationship between God and man. Many are so steeped in tradition that they neglect to see what the scriptures say.

We find by looking at the above scriptures that there is a searching on both the part of man and of God. I remember when I was a teenager searching for God. For many years I did not seek Him with all my heart. I sought Him when I was in trouble or downhearted or if things were not going right. But I did not seek Him wholeheartedly. Yet I believe that all that time He was searching me out, and not allowing me to stray too far. You could say that God sought me until I found Him.

The scriptures tell us that God has not lost one of His sheep except the son of perdition. He has not lost any except Judas. This is a wonderful thing to know. If we trust in Him continually and do His will we become one of His sheep and He promises to uphold us and keep

us in the hollow of His hand. This truly is a wonderful promise. Man cannot make a promise like that and keep it. Only God can.

I often wonder what He sees in us to redeem us. He loved us when we were unlovable by human standards, and often we still are. Yet He loves us, poor wondering sheep that we are. He provides for us. He watches over us, and He searches us out.

Thou Shepherd of Israel and mine,
The joy and desire of my heart,
For closer communion I pine:
I long to reside where thou art:
The pasture I languish to find,
Where all who their Shepherd obey,
Are fed, on thy bosom reclined,
And screened from the heat of the day.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

RD 2 Box 561

Newmanstown, PA 17073

BEING PAST FEELING

Ephesians 4:17-19, "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness: to work all uncleanness with greediness."

The very mention of the word "feelings" elicits controversy within the Christian community. Many Anabaptists are strongly opposed to the Pietistic theology because of the inclusion of an emotional experience in salvation. This initiates a discussion concerning personal (individualistic) decision verses corporate accountability.

We, too, are concerned with the modern trend of "every man doing that which is right in his own eyes." We are also persuaded that there is a need for personal commitment and responsibility. We believe this starts with an experience with the Lord Jesus Christ. Emotion may or may not be a part of this experience. We are not nearly as impressed with "dry eyed conversions" as with those who express their sincere guilt of sin with tears.

The subject of "feeling" or "emotion" also conjures up loud and active worship with much display. We are convinced that much that is deemed to be a movement of the Spirit is no more than human emotion out of control. However, we are also convinced that the Spirit

does move individuals to express their love of the Lord in acts of emotional display.

The "feeling" described in our opening verses does not deal directly with this controversial definition of feelings. It deals with a feeling of awareness of sin. Paul says that we are not to walk as other Gentiles walk. That is, our lifestyle should be different from that of the general population. We believe Christians should be different in their attire, their form of speech and their choice of amusements among other things.

Paul says other Gentiles walk in the vanity of their mind. They are not concerned what their appearance may do to others. In fact, many dress for the sole purpose of attracting the attention of the opposite sex. In addition to this, other Gentiles are often very egotistical. A large portion of the population is in love with themselves. Their greatest goal in life is to supply their wants, needs and desires. We believe this can be a stumbling block for Christians as well.

Paul also says other Gentiles have the understanding darkened. They do not have the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit to guide them into truth. Paul infers that we can also have a lack of understanding even if we have the Holy Spirit within. We can read and study our Bible and use the correct version (which we believe is the King James Version) and still fall into error if we do not allow the Holy Spirit to lead us in our understanding. Preconceived ideas and a lack of true conviction can hinder the Spirit in this area.

Paul says that other Gentiles are alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them. Ignorance can come from a lack of Bible study. It can also come from being influenced by popular thought.

Paul says these things come about because of the blindness of their heart. We "see" spiritual truths with our spiritual eyes. This is a very important part of "feeling" as we see it. Satan can cause us to doubt our salvation and make us feel like we are lost. He can also give us a false sense of security and make us believe that God will not judge our sin if we have once been saved by the blood of Christ.

Paul says that these other Gentiles are past feeling. What a terrible condition to be in! They can not know the calling of the Lord on their heart to repent from their sin. This is because they have given themselves over to lasciviousness. That is doing anything that pleases their mortal bodies and minds. To us this proves that we have a free will. Paul says these other Gentiles work all uncleanness with greediness. It is popular today, as it may have been when this was written, to make excuses for deviate lifestyles.

Are these other Gentiles without hope? We think not. For a few verses later Paul speaks of putting off the former conversation (lifestyle) the old man which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts and putting on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

God can deal with you if you sincerely allow Him to take away the feelings for sin and give you a feeling of true joy. As Christians we must also allow the Holy Spirit to bring conviction from time to time upon our heart. May we never come to the place of being past feeling.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 15, 1936

THE WORLDLY CHURCH

J. D. Brown

"Take heed that no man deceive you, for many shall come in My name, saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many." (Matt. 24:4-5.)

We find in later days, false teachers will declare, Lo here is Christ and there is Christ. Be not deceived, allowing yourselves to be tossed about by every wind of doctrine. We have a right to know which is the right church, by searching the gospel as we are commanded, Paul told Timothy to study to show thyself approved of God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of God.

If we acquaint ourselves with the word of God, we will be prepared to weigh them in the gospel balances, or measure them by the rule of God. By their fruits ye shall know them.

(I John 2:15-17.) "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world, if any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eye, and the pride of life is not of the father but is of the world, and the world passeth away and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

A great contrast between these that follow after the fashions of the world, and indulge in all the things of the world, their religion passeth away with all the lusts of the flesh, but those that do the will of God abide forever. They not only abide with the Lord in this life, but they will abide with Him in the life to come.

(John 15:19) "Ye are not of the world," speaking to His disciples, "I

have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." This scripture settles the question for ever. It is too plain to be misunderstood, those that lust after the flesh, and satisfy the lust of the eye, and the pride of life are not the church of Christ. Because He said I have chosen you out of the world. If they are a chosen people they are a separate people from the world. Therefore the world hateth you. Is it reasonable that the world would join the church of Jesus Christ, when Christ says the world hates the church?

(Jas. 4:4) "The friendship of the world is enmity with God. Whosoever therefore will be a friend to the world is the enemy of God." I truly believe the most conservative man in the worldly church is a friend to the most worldly man in the church, because he recognizes him as the brother, he communes with him, which proves beyond a doubt that they are friends. And if so, he is no better than the worldly brother, because James says he is the enemy of God.

Again they have no excuse, they take their choice, they choose between the loyal and the disloyal, they prefer going with the worldly church, which again proves they are a friend to the world.

Again the gospel teaches, two can not walk together except they agree. From this scripture, we infer that the most conservative brother must agree with the worldly church.

(Matt. 15:14) "Let them alone. They be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind both shall fall into the ditch." Matthew warns us there will be blind leaders, and if we follow them we with them shall fall into the ditch, or condemnation.

(Jas. 1:27) "Pure religion and undefiled before God the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and keep himself unspotted from the world." I ask in the name of good reasoning, has the worldly church a pure and undefiled religion? If not, can they be the church of Christ?

(John 15) "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." It requires strict obedience to the word of God, to be a friend of God.

(II Cor. 6:14-18) Paul here teaches that the church and the unbelieving world can not fellowship or commune together any more than light and darkness. The church represents the light, Ye are the light of the world, ye are the temple of the living God, as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and will walk in them, and I will be their God. And they shall be My people, wherefore come out from among them and touch not the unclean thing, and on these conditions he agrees to be our Father and we shall be his children.

(Rom. 16:18) Come out from among them, because they serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but by good words and fair speech, they

deceive the hearts of the simple. Be not deceived, they will deceive the very elect if possible.

(Rom 16:17) "Now I beseech you brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

The word avoid means shun them, withdraw from them, or escape or flee from them, (Webster). But in place of shunning them, or withdrawing from them, escaping or fleeing from them, they fellowship and commune with them, showing they are the friends of the world. By their fruits ye shall know them.

(I Thess. 3:6, 14) "Ye withdraw from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the traditions which he received of us." Paul in II Tim. 3 says, from such turn away. We see from the foregoing scripture that the most conservative member of the worldly church has a work to do, they must withdraw, or come out from the worldly church, before Jesus Christ will recognize them as a child of God.

(Heb. 6:4-7) For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the holy ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and powers of the world to come. If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame.

I believe the worldly churches were once enlightened, and tasted of the heavenly gift, and were partakers of the Holy Ghost, and tasted the good word of God, and if so, Paul offers them as a church no hope.

(Titus 1:11) Paul says their mouths must be stopped, but this is just the kind of preaching the worldly church wants, hence they are allowed to speak.

(John 16:13) The Holy Ghost guides men into all truth, which is the word of God. When men are guided by the Holy Ghost into all truth they will withdraw from all the ungodliness of the kingdom of this world.

(John 17:16) "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." According to this, Christ will not recognize a worldly church.

(Rom. 12:2) And be not fashioned according to this world. The humble follower of Christ dare not form, shape, or fashion himself after the foolish and vain customs, styles and forms of the worldly. But be ye transformed, changed from the foolish styles of the world, to modest apparel, which becometh those professing godliness, by the renewing of your mind. A renewed mind is a changed mind, which is affected by the influence of the Holy Ghost and the word of

God.

When we have a change of apparel and a changed mind, then we are a new creature in Christ Jesus, then we can present our bodies in an acceptable manner of God, then is when we can be read and known of all men.

(Rom. 12:1) But the worldly churches present their bodies in all the styles and fashions of the world, they present their minds, I truly believe the same way, in sympathy with the world, which is carnal. The carnal mind is enmity against God, not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be. We must forsake all the pleasures of this world, forsake even our best friends, for Christ's sake.

(Luke 14:26) "If any man come to Me, and hate not his father and his mother and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple."

(Matt. 10:37) "He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me is not worthy of Me." (Matt. 19:29) "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father or mother or wife, or children, or lands, for My name's sake shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life."

WRITING OUT LOUD

Do you recall the young lady, who as valedictorian of her high school graduating class, testified for Jesus Christ? At first the principal flat out said, "No." Only a threatened law suit changed that. Then she was asked to write her speech and tone it down. She did not. The speech was given as she had originally planned.

This clearly demonstrates once again that Christianity is under attack. She could have quoted Buddha, Confucius, or Shirley MacLaine, but not God! Others have free speech, Christians do not! Consider the following observations:

Christians (that is us) are more into tolerance than truth. Even Christians were ashamed. Truth has been sold out for popularity and acceptance. Preachers are encouraged to "tone it down" and not to "be so negative."

Her speech was evangelistic. Perhaps even my wisdom would have changed it. Then it hit me. We have lost our zeal and our aggressiveness. We are totally passive, defeated. The early church was militant. We are trying to be righteous without being too religious. It is not going to happen.

The media shout, "courage" when the abortionists, homosexuals,

radical feminists, and so forth, "shove it in our faces." They whine when a little Christian girl discusses her faith and priorities.

The world is not listening to the church because the church is not talking. We have ceased preaching because we no longer have fire in our bones. Pulpits deliver feel-good sermonettes to Christianettes while the church dies. Should not someone rattle our cages?

Everything we believe in is offensive. God is offensive. Jesus is offensive. Truth is offensive. Preaching is offensive. The Bible is offensive.

Good morning, church! Is anyone reading? Let us wake up before our meeting houses become our tombs. Movements begin in caves and die in cathedrals.

We cannot settle for life-support Christianity. What has become of the Great Commission? Thank God for the little girl in DeSoto, Texas!

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by Brother Lynn H. Miller

NEWS ITEMS

DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION

Please make the following changes in the Directory of Information in February 1, 1996, issue.

The present contact person for Mountain View, CO Congregation is Bro. Qty Reed, 33720 Rd 26, McClave, CO 81057. His telephone number is 719-829-4511.

Please delete the current information for the Mountindale, MD Congregation.

NOTICE

Would you be interested in being part of a management team, or would you know someone who is qualified for such a position? Then please contact a member of the Trustee Board of Mt. Hope Home. Telephone 717-741-1607.

Or you may communicate directly to:

Mt. Hope Home
3026 Mt. Hope Home Rd.
Manheim, PA 17545
717-665-6365

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1996

September 1 - The New Commandment - John 13:18-38.

1. To whom was Jesus referring when He said, "Whomsoever I send"?
2. How can we show "Love one to another", providing we are Jesus' Disciples.

September 8 - "The Way, The Truth and the Life" - John 14:1-14.

1. How could God the Father be seen in Jesus Christ the Son?
2. Whatever we ask in Christ's name will be done, for what purpose?

September 15 - "If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments" - John 14:15-31.

1. How can we prove our love for Christ by keeping His commandments?
2. What work will the Holy Spirit perform in us as believers?

September 22 - Abiding in Christ - John 15:1-8.

1. Receiving what we ask of God is conditional upon what two things?
2. By doing what, do we glorify the Father and be a disciple of Christ?

September 29 - Greater Love - John 15:9-25.

1. Explain the difference between a friend and a servant?
2. Why should we, as believers, expect persecution from unbelievers?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1996

September 1 - Our Heavenly Home - Matt. 6:19-21; Luke 10:17-20,
John 14: 1-6, Rev. 21:1-27.

1. Why is it so important to have our treasurers in the right place?
2. Who shall inherit the "All things" of Heaven?

September 8 - Our Rebellion - Deut. 9:24, I Sam. 15:22-23, Isa. 65:2-5,
Phil. 3:16-21, Rom. 10:1-3.

1. How does God respond to the rebellion of His people?
2. How should we submit ourselves "unto the righteousness of God?"

September 15 - Our Spiritual Growth - II Cor. 9:6-11, Eph. 4:14-16,
I Thess. 3:11-13, II Pet. 1:5-9, 3:18, Heb. 6:1-6.

1. How is our Spiritual growth conditional upon our growth in love?
2. Explain the relationship of Spiritual growth and fruit bearing.

September 22 - Our Earnestness - Deut. 6:1-12, Ps. 119:1-16,
Prov. 3:1-13, Phil. 3:13-15.

1. In what ways can we show our earnestness in serving God?
2. How can we "find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man"?

September 29 - Our Eagerness - Mark 10:13-22, I Cor. 15:1-10,
Acts 13: 38-44, Acts 17:16-34/

1. How is our eagerness in God's service an indicator of our spiritual condition?
2. How could it be possible for us to be eager to serve God and yet be lost spiritually?

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXIV

SEPTEMBER 1, 1996

NO. 17

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE TIME DRAWS NIGH

The time draws nigh, when from the clouds
Christ shall with shouts descend;
And the last trumpet's awful voice
The heav'ns and earth shall rend.

Then they who live shall changed be,
And they who sleep shall wake;
The graves shall yield their ancient charge,
While earth's foundations shake.

The saints of God, from death set free,
With joy shall mount on high;
The heav'nly hosts, with praises loud,
Shall meet them in the sky.

A few short years of exile past,
We reach the happy shore;
Where death-divided friends, at last,
Shall meet to part no more.

GATHERED TO BE SCATTERED

Farmers buy or store seed to be planted. If they are to have a harvest they must invest in seed, which, hopefully, will produce a large harvest.

The best seed may be secured. It may be stored under ideal conditions. While sitting in the storage bin, it has the potential of producing a bumper crop. Every farmer knows that potential does not make a crop that can be harvested. No matter how expensive or how well kept, the best seed can not produce a harvest until it has been sown.

Before the seed can be sown, the ground must be adequately prepared. It must be broken up. Seed sown on the pathway or other patches of hard ground can not take root and produce a crop. Rocks and stones must be removed from the field. Rocks do not provide a suitable seedbed because the seed can not take root. The grass and weeds must be pulled or tilled down so they do not choke the young sprout. When all these operations have been completed, the soil is prepared for the sowing of the good seed. Even with the best of conditions, there will be a variance in the amount of the harvest.

Even the smallest yield is a miracle. Even from one grain can come a stalk that produces many, many grains. Multiply that one grain by all that were sown and some idea of the magnitude of the harvest can be gleaned. Even if all do not produce to their fullest, what they do produce is a large increase over that one initial seed. A good seed in fertile ground will produce a great crop.

For a seed to produce it must die. There is an element of risk in planting that good seed. The natural tendency is to hoard it. If it is

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kept in storage it will produce nothing. If kept too long it will decay and become unproductive. It must be planted. It must die. It must germinate to bring forth its fruit.

The thought of dying to produce life is a picture of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. His Resurrection has been the source of true, bountiful Spirituality for nearly two thousand years. He desired to do His Father's will. Although He may have desired to have been spared the pain, shame and suffering of the crucifixion, He, nevertheless, yielded to the will of God. God's love for the individuals of this world caused Him to give the greatest of all gifts, His only begotten Son. Jesus, the Son of God, paid the price for the sins of humanity on the cross. He was lifted between Heaven and earth, drawing humanity's sins unto Himself.

There He died. He was taken from that cross to lay in Joseph's tomb. He was the good seed being planted in the ground. That seed germinated. He resurrected. He provided life for fallen mankind.

His resurrection is pictured each time a sinner convicted of his sin decides to follow Jesus by declaring his faith, repenting of past sins and entering the baptismal stream. Baptism is a picture of death, burial and resurrection. It identifies the believer with Jesus.

The harvest is gathered into the granary. There the grain awaits being sold, fed to animals or saved for next year's seed. Whatever its destination, it can not remain in the granary. It must be used.

Joy accompanies the gathering of the grain. There may be a celebration to commemorate the end of the harvest. Better yet, thanks may be offered to God for this harvest. However, the seed does not fulfill its original potential until it is used.

Those who have been born-again must become good seed. They have received the vitality of the resurrection. With that life within, they must be scattered abroad. They have been gathered into the Father's garner to be scattered forth as seed that will continue to produce even more seed.

Those who have been gathered need to enjoy the benefits of the fellowship and instruction within the granary. They dare not become at ease in that situation. They must go forth to bring forth other seed. There is a tendency to hoard the seed. Hoarding actually has an opposite than expected effect. Instead of saving the seed, it often brings a decay into the body of believers. Certainly every congregation should be of sufficient size to provide a well-rounded ministry. Every congregation also should be looking for ways it can promote the sowing the good seed in other areas. These areas may be just a few miles away, they may across the country, or even around the world.

Have you been gathered into the Father's granary? Are you willing

to scattered as the good seed, wherever needed?

M.C.Cook

SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 1 1936

WHAT, CAN YE NOT WATCH?

Ida M. Helm

"What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation." (Matt. 26:40-41.)

Jesus had taken His disciples into the Garden of Gethsemane to watch with him. His humanity craved the companionship of friends in that crucial hour. HE was Praying. HE said, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with Me." (Matt. 26:38.) Oh how imperative it is that we watch and pray without ceasing. While Jesus agonized and interceded for the sins of the disciples, for your sins and mine and for the sins of all of Adam's race the disciples went to sleep. Of all the people that were astir that night, none were watching, none were praying.

When Jesus wakened Peter out of his sleep he took a sword and cut a man's ear off, and Jesus had to heal it and rebuke Peter. If Peter had been watching and praying with Jesus he would not have drawn a sword against his fellowman. In our careless state of mind while we are napping or dozing or while we are ever busy here and there and not on our guard the call comes to us to watch and pray. Even in our best, most earnest and somber moods Christ our Savior calls us to watch and pray that we may retain that which we have and that we may grow more like Him.

"What, could ye not watch with Me one hour?" These were pathetic, touching words that fell from the lips of our Savior when in his awful interceding agony he found the disciples sleeping. He was in a few hours to be led to the cross to be a sacrifice for all man kind, that his sinless blood might cover our sins, though they be as scarlet.

"And His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." (Luke 22:44.) It was for the sleeping disciples that HE sweat those bloody drops, it was for me, it was for you that HE sweat those bloody drops. Can we watch with Him?

At love feast time we wash each other's feet, we eat the Lord's supper and partake of the bread and cup, emblems of Jesus broken body and shed blood.

St. Paul says, "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh

unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body." (I Cor. 11:27-29.)

It is wonderful that the chief ordinance of Christianity is the commemoration of the death of a man. A vital relationship to the accomplishment of God's great plan of redemption. We should always live on the highest plane of holiness possible.

At love feast time during the usual hour or two of intermission between the examination service and the feast how do we spend the time? Do we indulge in a careless confidence, talking about secular things, laughing and perhaps joking a little bit, instead of watching and praying with Jesus? Preparation for the communion and partaking of it is no trifling matter. Our weakness and our moral nature is understood and closely scrutinized by our creator and Redeemer to whose perfection we weak morals are mystically united.

Let us watch and pray that the mysterious purpose in God's plan may be fulfilled in our weak body. "But as he which called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation." (I Peter 1:15.) Jesus and the salvation he brought to mankind should be the subject and thought of our conversation between the examination service and the feast. It is to proclaim and commemorate the Savior's death that we come together and we should keep our minds on the tortured, bleeding Jesus as he dragged his broken, humiliated body up Calvary, "despised and rejected of men."

"What could ye not watch with me one hour? Listen, Paul is speaking, "Only let your conversation be as cometh the gospel of Christ." (Philippians 1:27.)

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby HE is able even to subdue all things unto Himself." (Philippians 3:20-21.)

There is no bar to communion but the want of correct preparation and whatever bar there is men and women may remove themselves if they will. God insists on people doing things right.

BUILDING A CHURCH TEAM

Part 1

Have you ever participated in a game of volleyball, and one or more of the players on your team were "hot dogs?" These "hot dogs" would hit the ball at every chance, sometimes running into other players on their own team. The ones on the team who were not quite as good at the game would never get a chance to hit the ball.

Does this sound to you like an example of good teamwork in

action? I believe that playing volleyball can give us some valuable insights about getting along as a Church.

In Ephesians 4:11-16, Paul gives a list of different spiritual gifts. He also gives the reasons why God grants spiritual gifts unto men and women who are believers.

Why do we need a church team? The three reasons given are:

- (1) For the perfecting of the saints,
- (2) for the work of the ministry, and
- (3) for the edifying of the body of Christ.

How long will we be needing to work together as a team within the body of Christ? Until "we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." This objective is supposed to be fulfilled in our Church today!

What is a "team ministry?" As it relates to this application, I would define a team ministry as a church that works together in presenting to the world a united front; a people who live out the Word of God in their daily lives, and who are intent on sharing the Gospel Message with others.

As we consider the merits of working together as a team, I will be using the example of a volleyball game. In playing volleyball, a number of players divide into two different teams. There are certain rules by which to play, so that the competition is fair and equitable. In my experience, a team that plays well together can win over a team where a few individuals are really good players, but who do not cooperate together as a team. The goal is to get the ball back over the net without letting it hit the ground. The hope is that someone from the opposing team will fumble the ball and let it drop, so that your team can gain a point.

In building a Church team, there are at least five qualities needed among the individuals in the group. They are: (1) Commitment, (2) Character, (3) Trustworthiness, (4) Leadership, and (5) Flexibility.

The first quality needed on the team is commitment. Commitment (in a church team setting) is a decision to love each other and to deliberately choose to work together. This particular type of love is not the gushy, mushy type—like when a boy meets a girl and they fall "head over heels" in love for each other. This kind of love is a real commitment; a rational decision to choose to be committed to the other person(s) for the rest of your life.

Love is the oil that allows us to work together without grinding each other to pieces! Just let a bearing go without oil for a period of time on a piece of machinery, and you will see what happens when a Church without love will get all heated up, and will eventually

experience a "meltdown" if the condition is not alleviated.

Commitment also includes the Biblical mandate to forgive one another when wrongs occur; when offenses are committed. Those team members who are committed to each other will display a willingness to work together and have a forgiving spirit.

You know what happened soon after the "fall" in the Garden of Eden? There were ONLY two brothers, and one of them killed the other! Only two brothers, yet, Cain was NOT willing to work together on this earth with his brother, Abel. Cain was NOT a good example of a team player.

Years ago, when automobiles were just coming out, the story goes that there were two cars registered in the State of New Jersey. Only two! And they collided at an intersection. Why? They were both coming to the same intersection at the same time, and neither driver would yield the right-of-way!

God wants us, who are believers, to learn to work together—so we can develop a trust in one another. We need to overcome the fruits of "the fall" by getting along together. Unlike Cain and Abel, we need to live in unity and harmony, and experience teamwork!

A good example of commitment can be seen on the volleyball court during a game when someone gives up a good hit for the benefit of someone else on the same team. The team's players need to work together during the game for the ultimate good of the team. In order for the team to win, each player needs to work for the benefit of the team, rather than for his or her own personal benefit. In this way, the team has a fighting chance to win!

How about the Church team? Is each one willing to do his or her part? We all need to be committed to the task of spreading the Gospel Message. We all need to be committed to working together. Sometimes we need to lay aside our personalities. We need to accept the fact that others will see things from a different angle than we do. We believers need to choose to get along together in order to accomplish the larger task of winning the lost for Jesus Christ.

To be continued

Brother Bob Lehigh

IS CHRIST DIVIDED?

I Corinthians 1:12-13, "Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?"

Where I am employed we have a system of seniority that can get very complicated. It involves both factory and department seniority.

Within this system is what we call a "round robin." Theoretically the decision of job award could go on indefinitely. To avoid this there has been a restriction put on this "bumping" procedure. We have come to believe that theological issues are similar to this in some respects. When we try to make final and profound statements of understanding on many theological issues we find ourselves going "round and round" with no clear understanding.

We are persuaded that a large part of the problem is that we are trying to follow the wisdom of man in place of allowing Scripture to speak for itself. In a recent correspondence by mail we were once again challenged with the question of why there are so many different denominations, splinter groups and independent gatherings. As we thought on this question our mind was drawn to our opening verses.

In our day we could probably paraphrase the Apostle Paul and come up with a statement such as the following. "Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Martin Luther and I of John Calvin, (or Jacobus Arminius), and I of Cephas (Peter); and I of Christ." To this could be added the names of leaders of the various cults. Almost every one of the various groups claims to be a part of the body of Christ. A few claim that they are the body of Christ. Some refuse to worship Jesus Christ but claim to worship the Father. For us, it is not difficult to completely separate ourselves from the cults. But what about the remaining group? There is also the difficulty of where to place some religious movements. There is a growing movement today to accept the Roman Catholic Church as a legitimate part of the body of Christ. In reality they, of their own admission, are the group that says, "I (am) of Cephas." They insist that Jesus Christ gave the authority to rule the earthly church to the Apostle Peter and the Popes are his successors.

One of the things that has always puzzled us about this portion of Scripture is why the Apostle Paul included the name of Christ in this list. There are at least two possibilities. The most obvious is that you can claim to be following Christ but fail to worship the Christ of Scripture. But there is also the danger of becoming so self righteous that you come to believe that you and your little group (no matter the numerical number) are the full and complete body of Christ. The statement, "While others are following the teaching of man, we are following the teaching of Jesus Christ and Holy Scripture," can be both of good statement and a sigh of self-righteous holiness.

Paul's question, "Was Paul crucified for you?", speaks to us of the importance of believing in the shed blood of Christ for our salvation. This eliminates a large portion of the modern church and other organizations from the true body of Christ. Paul's next question, "Or

were ye baptized in the name of Paul?", says to us that baptism is more important than many conservative groups make it. But it also raises the question of the correct mode of baptism along with the issue of infant baptism versus believer's baptism.

Is Christ divided? The obvious answer is, No! Should we then join the ecumenical movement? Heaven forbid. Should we discontinue our wearing of distinctive garb to bring more unity with other believers? We are persuaded that doing so will eventually lead to our sisters losing the prayer veil, which is an issue of division. Christ is not divided but man has divided the body of Christ by interpretation of Scripture. We are persuaded that we should hold fast to Brethren understanding of Scripture that has lasted the test of time until the last few decades. We are not dividing Christ by standing fast to Holy Scripture and tradition that makes it applicable.

Brother James M. Hite

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1996 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

continued from August 15, 1996 issue

Tuesday Morning Worship

Bro. Mark Cordrey. Psalms 20. Our biggest goal in life is to get right with God. What kind of Christian are you? Jesus gave His life, not for Himself, but for us. What do you trust in? When we get to the end of our life, have we gotten ourselves ready to leave this world? Did we accept Christ and all of His teachings? Remember the Lord your God; put your trust in Him.

Bro. Eldon Mallow closed. Ps. 111:1-3, Eph. 3:14-21. We need to stand faithful to the Word of God.

Tuesday A.M.

Bro. Scott Bross opened. The thought and cost of faith. We must have faith in Christ. We have faith in our Heavenly Father. Acts 6:8, 11:24, 27:23-26. Barnabas and Paul were faithful workers for God. We need to fear our enemy, Satan. Do not allow him to lead us in the wrong direction. God is trying to strengthen our faith. Trust in Him, and He will help us.

Bible Study-Adults: The Church-A Tempered Body, I Cor. 12

Children-A Son Returns Home, Luke 15:11-32.

Bro. Denny Myers. Take up Thy Cross. Matt. 16:21-24. Christ said, "I must go and suffer many things." Many of us here have decided to follow Jesus and His teachings. The cross has some weight. Christ said, "You may be hated by all men and shall be saved." Christ took His cross and made it holy by death. We are

called to bear the burdens of others. So often Satan tempts us to give an excuse. He tells us not to bear others' burdens. Is the cross too heavy to bear to help others and their burdens. Do you hear Christ calling the cross bearers? Do not yield to temptation. Take up the cross and follow Christ. Christ is there and will show you how to bear the cross. Christ said, "If you are not willing to take the cross, you are not worthy of me." If we do not bear the cross, where do our children stand? They can see we are not willing to take up the cross. We are living in the last days. Are we lowering our standards and not willing to take up the cross as we should? Mark 10:21. The cross was too heavy to bear for the rich man. Jesus loved the rich man and told him to sell everything, and take up the cross and follow Him. Are you willing to bear the cross and live faithful throughout your life?

Bro. Fred Johnson closed.

Tuesday P.M.

Bro. Gordon Jamison opened. Matt. 28:19-20. "Teach all nations to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

The Decorum Committee asked Bro. Dale Jamison to tell of his African Mission experiences. Acts 16. Bro. Godfrey is twenty-seven years old, married now and is a minister of the Dunkard Brethren Church. There were hundreds of children running loose in Kampala. The children get all of their food at school in Kampala. Bro. Paul, Sister Mary Stump, and my wife Doris and I went out to the Bush for services. As we went along through the trees, we saw the little huts that they lived in. Many wanted to be baptized and thirty-two were. They were so happy to be born again. We traveled on about fifty miles further, where there were sixty some children who came along to the service. Most of the women in Africa believe in having their heads covered during prayer. The people were glad to be part of the service at every home we went to. Bro. Paul and I received two chicken hens, eggs and pineapple. It is their way of saying, "Thank you for being here." People in Africa want missionaries to come and teach them the Bible. African people need the Lord. They want to be baptized. They are happy to learn of the Bible. The gospel needs to be preached in Africa. They do not practice the holy kiss there, as we do in America. They kiss only by brushing cheeks.

Bro. Phil Gish closed. We need to pray for our Mission Board and learn how we can be of help to the people in Africa.

Tuesday Evening

Bro. Jim Meyers opened. Luke 8:26-40. What are we doing with what God has entrusted to us?

Bro. Rudy Shaffer. 911. Matt. 25:31-46. Do we see the fallen

men around us? Many people in the world need Christ. We need to share the gospel with fallen men. We need a vision of Hell. Hell has become a place of torment. We need salvation to get us ready for Heaven. We need Christ and His teachings. Any church that does not have trouble means Satan has full power over it. Be a witness to the people who do not know Christ. Jesus said to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Let's get on fire for the Lord.

Bro. William Carpenter closed. The Bible is the message that we carry with us to any missionary meeting with anyone in need to learn of Christ.

Wednesday Morning Worship

Bro. Milton Cook. I Chron. 16::7-37. This was the returning of the ark of the covenant. It was put in the place where it belonged. We have been greatly blessed while we have been here at this Conference. We are here to praise the living God. We can choose to be built up in our Spiritual lives since we have been here.

Sister Alice Heisey

I WILL DRAW ALL MEN UNTO ME

John 12:32, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

As witnesses for the Lord Jesus Christ we should never be discouraged. We should continue to tell others about our crucified, risen Lord. For we know that, according to the scriptures it is Jesus that draws men unto Him. It is not us. When I look back on my own experience, I remember the words of a man, but it was the drawing power of Jesus Christ that sustained me for over three years until I finally became His child. If He truly drew me all those years, and if He has held me even until this very hour, then I must not doubt His power to draw others and to save and keep them.

'Tis done—the great transaction's done

I am my Lord's, and he is mine;

He drew me, and I followed on,

Charmed to confess the voice divine.

We must, in all our witnessing and work for God, go in the name of Jesus. No person in this world is beyond His power to save. Jesus is the only true magnet. His power is irresistible. Man has tried to draw others through programs, musical groups, famous preachers, puppet shows, conferences, and the like, but JESUS said, "...if I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." Are we lifting Him up for others to see?

Jesus will save you. Not the logic or knowledge of this world. Not the churchly organizations or fads of this present world. It is Jesus. We need to be careful of fad and fashion in the religious realm.

Look at education. Educate yourself if you must, but do not let your education lead you away from Jesus. Do not be side-tracked by a loved one, a group of friends, a form of entertainment, or a sport. Jesus is too precious to be lost at the hands of something so insignificant. Many today are in the valley of decision. Rich and poor, ignorant and educated, young and old: we all pass this way at sometime in our lives. What will you do with Jesus, who is called Christ? Will you bow before Him and plead for mercy to take away your sins and make you His child? Or, will you, like many millions before you, crucify Him again and bring Him again to an open shame?

Happy day, Happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away!
He taught me how to watch and pray

And live rejoicing every day;

Happy day, Happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away!

Brother Lynn H. Miller

RD 2 Box 561

Newmanstown, PA 17073

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Mind: Its Care

J. H. Moore

Did you ever walk through a fine apple orchard and admire the fruitful trees? Have you not seen these trees covered with bloom and, later on, hanging full of fruit? Then, have you not visited the orchard again, and been charmed by the tinted leaves and large, delicious apples? Have you not stood beneath the outspreading branches of some favorite tree and counted the large, ripe apples lying on the ground? Did you not, at the same time, notice some decayed fruit? Did you take the pains to count such apples? More especially, did you eat any of the decayed fruit? Certainly not. That was sensible. That is the way all fair-minded people do. They admire the beautiful, and eat that which is good. They never would think of eating a rotten apple. They might possibly gather them up and cast them into the ditch, but they could never be induced to make use of them, or even to ask anybody else to do so.

That is the right way to treat the body. The Lord never intended that people should put partly decayed fruit into their stomachs. Why not be thus wise regarding the care of the mind? The world is full of good things to think about. There is good books and papers everywhere. In nature there is much to admire and think about. Then, why feast upon the evil and the unpleasant? Why spend hours and even days, rolling evil thoughts over and over in the mind, as

though they were sweet morsels? True, evil things are about us. We cannot help noticing them. But why not dispose of them, as we would get rid of decayed fruit, and then go on thinking about the good, the noble, the beautiful and the uplifting?

Decayed fruit in the stomach will soon ruin it. Next will come disease, followed by a painful death. The same unwise treatment may lead to a troubled mind and an unhappy life. The wise man takes care of his body. He knows that it is the only one he is ever going to get in this world. But he is not always so careful regarding the care of his mind. He fills his mind with unpleasant thoughts, and then wonders why he must all the time be worried with the evil of this world. He is like the foolish man—if one so foolish could be found—who whiles away his time in his charming orchard, feasting on decayed fruit.

In this wicked world we cannot avoid coming in contact with evil. Sin and misfortune must be encountered, but they should be disposed of. At least we should not permit the mind to feast upon such thoughts. To do so will not be good for the mind, neither will it produce happiness. It requires time, attention and great care to supply the stomach with healthful food. This is true of the needs of the mind. He who would have a healthful, useful, happy, pure and contented mind must give it even more attention than he gives his stomach or his body. A pure mind might possibly exist in a neglected body, but a spotless soul will not go hand in hand with a willfully neglected mind.

REPORT: AFRICAN MISSION BOARD

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..." Matt. 28:19a.

We praise God for the open door in Uganda, and the eagerness of the people to hear the good news in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Brother Paul Stump along with Brother Rudy Shaffer are planning a visit to Africa, November 18. They will survey the progress of the congregations in Uganda, with concerns to help them become established in the Faith and possibly assist in plans for permanent meeting houses.

The support of the Orphan Sponsorship has been excellent with ninety-six being cared for. Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God." We understand that the children attend school the year around, with intermissions every three months. They receive one hot meal a day at school. Brother Godfrey goes to school on a regular basis and ministers to the children. Those sponsoring one or more children are encouraged to correspond with your child (children). You may send small gifts such as modest clothing, Christian story books

(being careful that the stories and illustrations are in good taste with the teachings of Jesus), pens and pencils, mathematical sets, and so forth. Address your correspondence to your child, c/o Child Sponsorship Program, Dunkard Brethren Church in Uganda, P.O. Box 21188, Kampala, Uganda, East Africa. Pray for your child daily.

Your Board would like a couple to go to Uganda for an extended period of time to assist and support Brother Godfrey and Brother Peter in the work of the Lord there. Anyone interested, please contact us.

We thank you for your strong support of this work and urge your continued prayerful interest.

For the Glory of God in Africa, your African Mission Board;
Brother Ray Reed, Sec.

AFRICAN MISSION BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

Quarter Ending June 30, 1996

Balance 3-31-96:	\$ 13,631.39
Receipts:	
Donations	\$ 7,667.90
Sponsorship	\$ <u>5,127.00</u>
Total Receipts:	\$ 12,794.90
Disbursements:	
Travel	\$ 2,148.95
Transportation(includes van maintenance, operation and public transportation)	\$ 1,720.00
Bibles	\$ 375.00
Rent: Housing, Church-6 months	\$ 3,000.00
Banking Fees	\$ 30.00
Orphan Education	\$ 7,700.00
Other	\$ <u>100.00</u>
Total Disbursements:	\$ 15,073.95
Balance 6-30-96:	\$ 11,352.34

Bro. Mark Andrews, Treasurer

NEWS ITEMS **MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

Lord willing, the Mechanicsburg Congregation is planning a Revival Meeting to be held from September 8 to September 15, 1996, at 7:30 each evening, with Sunday morning services at the usual time. Our evangelist will be Brother Rudy Shaffer from the Lititz Congregation. Please pray that God will have His way in these meetings, that His precious name will be glorified. We covet your prayers and attendance.

Sister Ruth N. Miller, Cor.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Our welcome is extended to all to our September 15 Harvest Meeting at the Englewood Congregation. If the Lord wills, Brother Lloyd Lorenz will bring the message.

Two recent lambs born into the Kingdom: Cathy, daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen Blocher and Leigh Anne, daughter of Bro. David and Sis. Bonnie Rice. May we hold them up in much prayer for the guidance of God's Spirit.

We feel greatly blessed by the enriching messages of Bro. Jim Meyer's revival efforts. It was a pleasure to have his family, also.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

THANK YOU

We want to thank all those who sent us cards on our fiftieth wedding anniversary. It was a lovely memory to add to our book of memories in our lives. May God bless you for your thoughtfulness.

Brother and Sister Reinhold Gunderman

ATTENTION COMPUTER USERS

For those people who enjoy using computers, there is a forum that is really enjoyable. I am a Sysop, (or system operator) of a computer bulletin board, or BBS called the Messenger. Basically it has after church discussion areas. Mine has forty or so topic areas, Old and New Testament, apologetics, prayer requests, poetry, local area activities, to name a few. Plus programs for free downloading. It also offers utilities for your system.

This is not Internet. It is NETworked with around thirty other computers, mostly on the West Coast but there are a few in the East.

I decided to join the BIBLEnet family, to give the conservative side of Christianity. If you have a computer with a modem you are welcome to call and visit my computer. Use your .com program, dial 209-874-9837. When your computer connects it will ask your Name or New: Type Dunkard Brethren Church. It will then ask your password: type PLHOME, it will then ask the phone number of our church, that is, ###-###-__ __ type 8634. The program will then let you in. Read the instructions. Leave me some feedback to let me know who called. You will want to call before 8:00AM, after 11:00PM or on weekends. The computer is on twenty-four hours a day.

If anyone is interested in starting a BBS, and NETworking with BIBLEnet or know anyone interested, give me a jingle. If you have a computer already it would cost less than one-hundred-fifty dollars to start.

Brother David Walker
Pleasant Home Congregation

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BIBLE MONITOR

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SEPTEMBER 15, 1996

NO. 18

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

A CONTRAST

Two men toiled side by side from sun to sun,
And both were poor;
Both sat with children, when the day was done,
About their door.
One saw the beautiful crimson cloud
And shining moon;
The other, with his head in sadness bowed,
Made night of noon.
One loved each tree and flower and singing bird,
On mount or plain;
No music in the soul of one was stirred
By leaf or rain.
One saw the good in every fellow-man
And hoped the best;
The other marvelled at his Master's plan,
And doubt confessed.
One, having heaven above and heaven below,
Was satisfied;
The other, discontented, lived in woe,
And hopeless died.

-Sarah Knowles Bolton

WAITING

One attribute sought by most people is patience. Everyone wants to have more patience but seemingly there is never time enough to develop it. We want it to be instantly available. Unfortunately, patience is not developed that way.

Patience is mostly developed by waiting. When a person learns how to wait instead of struggling against God's plan and pace, patience has an opportunity to develop.

Jesus told several parables that emphasized waiting. Matthew 25 contains some these parables. Each parable teaches other lessons, but part of the story involves the need of waiting. In neither case was the waiting to be a mere folding of the hands and the taking of sleep, it was to be a period of active waiting.

In the parable of the Ten Virgins, there was a period of waiting. There seemed to be idleness indulged in by all the virgins. The five wise virgins had prepared themselves for the end of the waiting time. The five foolish virgins had not improved their time by obtaining the needed oil before the groom came. The wise virgins could have been more active but at least they were ready. The foolish had completely wasted their time and opportunity.

Neither group knew when the bridegroom would come. They all had to wait the same amount of time. Each group grew weary, so they slumbered and slept. This may have been better than to impatiently fret and stew about the time of his arrival. The key was that whenever he would finally come they would be ready.

Those who were not ready could not borrow from those who were prepared. In this world there are many who depend upon the relief

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granted by those who have prepared. At that time, there will no welfare system that will provide the needed oil. They must either have it beforehand or do without.

In the parable of the Talents, the story is based upon the efforts of each servant, while the master was away. The servants did not know when the master would return. They could use the time to improve their finances or they could do nothing.

Two of the servants used their time wisely. They were able to improve their time. They had more at the end than at the beginning of the master's sojourn. However, one did not choose to use his talent. He chose instead to bury it. He was very security minded. He did not have much. He did not want to risk the little bit that he did have. At the least, he might have placed it at interest, so he could have had some gain. By thinking to protect his money, he actually placed it at greater risk. It might have decayed within the ground. It might have been dug up and destroyed by animals. It might have been lost through forgetfulness. When the master returned he was severe with this servant, who had not profited from his talent.

The lesson for us is to use the talent that the Lord has given each of us. We may not possess great talents, but what talent we do have we owe to the Lord. We must use it the best way possible. Even after we have employed that talent, we may need to wait for the results. Money put out at interest does not garner a great deal of money in a short time. It is over a long period of time that interest may produce wealth.

In the Bible, the word, "wait" has several meanings. It can mean "service", "expectation," "hope," or "spending time." Each meaning carries with it the idea of a prize at the end of the waiting period. That waiting period may be long or short. That should not concern us, for the prize will be worth whatever price the wait demanded.

Besides these parables there are many more admonitions to wait upon the Lord. In our human impatience we often think that we can improve upon God's plans for us. We want to adapt His message to our day and age, rather than wait upon Him. When we get the idea that we can run ahead of God and produce a better program than He has already given us, then we are no longer waiting upon Him. Somehow we think that God does not understand our conditions. We want to adapt and modernize His ways to meet our approval. We have set ourselves as the ones in charge. We forget we are the servants not the master. Servants are to wait upon their master, not the other way around.

Waiting develops patience when it brings forth its expected fruit. If we perceive the wait is worthwhile we will be willing to do whatever

is necessary to secure the prize. In the meantime we are developing the patience we need.

Are you patient? Have you learned to wait upon the Lord?

M.C.Cook

THE WAY

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

There are billions of stars in the heavens. Looking up on a clear night, the mind boggles at what it sees: stars like dust in appearance there are so many. Yet those who have traveled the vast waters of the earth will tell you that of all these stars there are a few that are useful. The North Star is one. It has guided the mariner for thousands of years. It is a fixed point that the pilot can concentrate on, and thereby tell what direction he is going. When I was young and we traveled away from home I always focused on the North Mountain. I could always tell familiar surroundings by looking for North Mountain. Just as the North Star and the North Mountain are guides to the weary traveler, so is our text. It is like the North Star because for centuries it has guided the weary soul to salvation.

Not far from where we live there is a Christian Book Store. They sell Bibles and books of all sorts. They also sell maps. People come from miles around to purchase maps there because they need to know the way to a place. The Bible is our road map to heaven. John 3:16 is one of the highlighted places on that map. It has been read to those souls who were dying to give them peace. It has been read aloud in every Christian Church in the world because in a few short words it encapsulates the essence of God's Word.

It talks about God's Love, using the word "so" which gives it infinite strength. It talks about God's Son, the most valuable Gift ever given to man. There is then, as Spurgeon calls it, "the simple requirement of believing." The "whosoever believeth in Him," which leaves room for you and me. There is also the great promise of salvation, which only God can grant, that believers will not perish, but have everlasting life.

Someone asked me if I thought that a person could accomplish a high office in the church without being saved. I hope not, and I trust that God would reveal this type of person to others. Salvation is not just the most important thing, it is the only thing. We cannot afford to let unconverted people into church offices, or even into church membership. The damage that can be done in deceiving others and

leading others astray is very serious indeed.

We know that the devil is busy. He would deceive the very elect if he could. An unconverted church member can do nothing against him. We must allow Christ into our hearts and allow God to rule and reign in our lives. The devil will then have no power against us. God will bless those who trust in Him.

God loved the world of sinners lost and ruined by the fall;
Salvation full, at highest cost, He offers free to all.
Even now by faith I claim Him mine, The risen Son of God;
Redemption by His death I find, And cleansing thro' the blood.
Love brings the glorious fullness in, And to His saints make known
The blessed rest from inbred sin, Thro' faith in Christ alone.
Believing souls, rejoicing go, There shall to you be given,
A glorious foretaste, here below, of endless life in heaven.
Of victory now o'er Satan's power Let all the ransomed sing.
And triumph in the dying hour Thro' Christ the Lord, Our King.
O 'twas love, 'twas wondrous love! The love of God to me;
It brought my saviour from above, To die on Calvary.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

BUILDING A CHURCH TEAM

Part 2

In Part 1 of this topic, we found that one quality needed in building a successful church team is commitment. Each of us, in a successful church setting, needs to make a conscious decision to love each other, and then deliberately choose to work together.

A second quality needed in building a successful church team is character. For the purposes of this article, I would define character as doing the right thing when nobody's looking. In our land today, there seems to be quite a lack of character in people's lives. It almost seems that we need to reach back into history in order to pull out some examples of character.

Before Abraham Lincoln became involved in the United States Government, he was an attorney. Someone wanted Lincoln to defend their case in court. Lincoln asked a few questions and found out that the person was at fault. Lincoln would not take the case, even though he was offered huge sums of money. He felt it just was not right. Oh, how we need to build this kind of character in our children, in our church family, and in our team members in the body of Christ!

Who are you? I am not asking what you preach! I am asking who you are...through and through, in pressure and out of pressure...when nobody's looking? What would your family say about you if I asked them to write and tell me the truth about your character? We have all been in homes where a lot of pretense was going on in the church, but oh, how different it was in the home during daily life! This kind of hypocrisy will show up in the children!

Times of crisis do not necessarily build character. But they do reveal whatever character is already there.

How many times have you seen character revealed during a game of volleyball? Sometimes it would seem to be humorous if it were not so serious! I have seen some "hot dogs" get so angry at their own team members who fumbled the ball that they would begin screaming and yelling. This was only in a volleyball game; when a half hour after the game, nobody would even remember who won or lost! Sure, it is okay to try to do your best when playing a game. It's not right to lose your temper, and get the attitude that one particular game is the most important thing on the earth!

The Bible speaks of people who easily lose their tempers: "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." (Proverbs 16:32).

We are reminded in Ephesians 4:13 that we are to work together as a team until, "we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." If a team member of the body of Christ does "fly off the handle" and loses his temper, it reflects very badly on the entire cause of Christ and His Kingdom. We who are believers really are representing God's Kingdom to every person we meet. What kind of representative are you?

To be continued
Brother Bob Lehigh

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Living better today because of the future"

Knowing the future makes all of us better prepared to face it. Some people, however, find the Bible's teaching on the future very confusing. Some have become so frustrated that they no longer study prophecy.

Although some details of prophecy are difficult to understand and even others are hidden, the purpose is clear. God has unveiled the future to comfort us and purify us. He tells us not to let our hearts be troubled. The apostle John adds, "Everyone who has this hope in him

purifies himself, just as he is pure." (1 John 3:3)

In the last chapter of his epistles, Peter gives suggestions on how to live in the light of Christ's any-moment return. He presents several ways we can prepare ourselves spiritually.

The first way we can prepare for the future is to rely on God's truth. Peter urges us to recall the words of the prophets and commands of Christ given through the apostles. These truths will strengthen us for any assault on our faith.

Peter warns us that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking God's Word and following their own evil desires. They will deny the promise of Christ's return, claiming that everything continues as it always has. They forget that God has already interrupted history several times, first at Creation and then at the Flood. Christ's return will again interrupt human history. The earth, once destroyed by water, is now reserved for judgment by fire.

Unfortunately, many people today have substituted their own experiences or ideas for the Word of God. Again Peter instructs us to follow God's Word rather than to depend on feelings and worldly advice. This is especially important as the end times approach and Christ's return draws near. False teachers will claim authority over the truths of Scripture.

Another way we can prepare ourselves for the future is to remember God's patience. Again addressing his friends, Peter reminds us that the "Lord is not slow in keeping his promise as some understand slowness." Many people wonder why Christ has delayed His return for so long. Peter reminds us that the Lord is "patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." Christ has not yet returned to allow more time for people to come to Him. As soon as the church is complete, He will return as He promised.

When Christ returns, we will enjoy His presence for eternity. A thousand years will be like a day!

Our knowledge of the future should also motivate us toward righteousness. We must make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him.

Peter explains that this world will be destroyed. Therefore, we should not be wrapped up in it as believers. We must live in keeping with the coming new heaven and new earth. When the present heavens disappear and the elements are destroyed by fire, we will dwell on a new earth prepared by the Creator.

Understanding these things, why, then do we spend so much time with the things of this world? Why put cosmetics on a corpse? Everything here will be destroyed. We must live in the light of Christ's

return and the blessing that awaits us in heaven.

As we learn to live with eternity's values in view, we will have to guard ourselves against the spiritual threats of the end times. Peter tells us to be on our guard so we may not be carried away by the error of lawless men.

The best defense against these errors is to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We need to live consistent Christian lives, rooted and grounded in solid doctrine. People are searching for the truth. If we proclaim it clearly and live by it consistently, they will be drawn to our Saviour.

Even though we may not understand all the details of prophecy, we can be sure that Christ WILL return. God has unveiled the future, not to satisfy our curiosity, but to prepare us to live in the light of His return. By knowing the future, we can live better for God today.

Live in anticipation. Live expectantly. Christ is coming...maybe today!

Brother Len Wertz

COME AND SEE THE WORKS OF GOD

Psalms 66:5a,6,7, "Come and see the works of God;...He turned the sea into dry land: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him. He ruleth by his power for ever: his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves."

We have received several small books at different times from the head of a blind association that explain how blind individuals can accomplish almost anything a sighted person can. While we find this to be interesting and even astonishing, we would hate to be without our sight. It might be possible to write articles by quoting them and having someone else type them up, but it would not seem the same to us. We are sure God would give us the grace to bear such an affliction but would much prefer not to have to struggle with it.

The Psalmist invites us to come and see the works of God. We enjoy driving in different parts of the State, we live in, and seeing the different scenery. Much of this is the works of God. The works of God the Psalmist is talking about in these verses is a demonstration of God's power. First of all, he says that God turned the sea into dry land. Then he says that they went through the flood on foot. We believe these two thoughts go together. There is more than one incident recorded in Holy Scripture where someone went across water on dry land after the parting of the waters. The best-known by far is the crossing of the Red Sea, by the Israelites. The Psalmist says, "there did we rejoice in him." This psalm is credited to David. He, of course, never actually experienced a crossing of water,

changed by God into dry land, that is recorded in Holy Scripture. He vicariously experienced this miracle by either reading about it or hearing it told. He could then make it a part of his own spiritual experience. By the same token we can vicariously experience the works of God by reading the Holy Scriptures in our day.

There is a greater way we can see the works of God in our lives. Just as God parted the Red Sea for the Israelites in their time of need, He is with us in our greatest time of trouble or tragedy. We may not always experience what we can describe as a miracle, but God is there to give us the strength and courage we need at the moment.

The Psalmist assures us that God rules by His power forever. We can soon become discouraged when we observe the wickedness all around us. We would not disagree with those who observe that the wicked seem to be getting more bold in their demands and the morals of the population, in general, seem to be deteriorating. The sins we see today have been with us since the fall of man. Some historians believe that conditions were as bad and maybe even worse in such places as Corinth in the days of the Apostles. No matter how out of control society seems to be, God has not lost any of His power. The omnipotence of God is from everlasting to everlasting.

We are told that God's eyes behold the nations. We do not believe that God desires Christians to be involved in politics. Neither do we believe that America, or any other nation, is or ever was a Christian nation. We do believe that the nation that turns its back on God will be judged by Him. We do not believe the statement is entirely true that states, "If God does not judge America He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah," for God will never have to apologize to anyone. But it is true that America rivals these wicked cities in abominations.

The Psalmist warns, "let not the rebellious exalt themselves." He is probably referring to the rebellious nations and their inhabitants. Unfortunately, he could have been addressing the earthly church! It is, indeed, sad the direction the nations of the world are taking. It is sadder yet the path a large portion of earthly churches have determined to follow. It is disgusting when a political figure in high office defends an immoral act. It is revolting when a church leader does this. God is not limited by man. We will see His works and His judgments in spite of man's actions. The world will never see the works of God through a rebellious church.

Come and see the works of God and allow the Holy Spirit to work in your life by accepting the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Brother: James M. Hite
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 15, 1936

THE INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES

D. W. Hostetler

In Heb. 1:1, we have these words: "God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son."

Since the old testament was given by the verbal inspiration of God, the contention here is that, the New Testament was given by the same God in the same way—the verbal inspiration of God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Inspiration is not revelation, it is the act of communicating divine knowledge to the mind of holy men. Inspiration is the act of the same God by the same Holy Spirit writing the knowledge revealed. The one is the influx, the other the efflux.

Inspiration is not illumination. Every regenerated Christian is illuminated in the fact that he is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, but not every person so illuminated is inspired. Only Bible writers were so inspired.

Again, inspiration is not human genius. The latter is simply a natural qualification, however good and well developed it may be. But inspiration is supernatural throughout. The writers were not inspired, but the word written was inspired.

I should like to go further with the point of the verbal inspiration of the scripture. The text at the head of this article is clear proof that God did speak to the fathers directly through the prophets. In II Timothy 3:16, Paul says: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God," or as the revised version has it "every scripture inspired of God is profitable."

The word rendered "scripture" in this passage is "Graphe." It means to dictate and write. So the idea here is that the scripture dictated by God has been written by the inspiration of God

It is interesting to know that only we common folks believe this doctrine, but Prof. A. A. Hodge says that the line can never rationally be drawn between the thought and word of scripture, that we have a verbally inspired Bible. Profs. Gussen, Westfield, Burgon all believed this same doctrine.

Our ancient church fathers, Justin, Irenaus, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, and Augustine all believed the doctrine of the verbal inspiration of the scriptures.

God spake through prophets, that is, He communicated His word to prophets, "at sundry times and divers manners," bit by bit, and in

various forms, such as man needed for his spiritual good, and righteousness, and holiness.

Moses lived some 2500 years after the creation. How did he get his knowledge of the facts of creation, sin, the promise of a Savior, the building of the Ark, the flood, and so forth? Under the force of the text under consideration, it is clear that Moses got his knowledge by revelation.

In Luke 1:70 we read, "As He spake by the mouths of His holy prophets which have been since the world began." Moses was not only a law giver but a holy prophet.

In the first chapter of Romans, Paul says he was called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ, and that this Christ was promised by God in the holy scripture (which was given by verbal inspiration) and that he was made of the seed of David, according to the flesh and declared to be the Son of God. "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son." Here it is declared positively that God hath spoken unto us in the last days through His Son, that the Son of God was here in the world in person, lived here some thirty-three years in the flesh and chose His disciples and taught them for three years, and before leaving them, told them that the Father would send "the Comforter which is the Holy Ghost," and that He, the Holy Ghost, would teach them and bring all things to their remembrance whatsoever He had said unto them; and that the anointing which they had received should teach them, and that they did not need any man to teach them, for this same anointing should teach them truth, which was the very thing Jesus had taught them. It is clear that the things which we have written in the New Testament were given the writers by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

In I Cor. 11:23, Paul informs us that the thing he was writing to the church at Corinth he had received of the Lord. That Paul was laboring under the power and direction of the Divine Holy Spirit of God is clear proof that the New Testament was given by the verbal inspiration of God.

In Gal. 1:11-12 Paul says: "For I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."

I would like the reader to note the word "certify" here in this text. It means "to confirm the truth and validity of, as a document or assert by a formal written statement, signed by an authorized official." So Paul was chosen an apostle, fully authorized by the Lord Jesus Christ to receive and write the gospel of Christ. Furthermore he positively

declares he had not received this gospel from man, but that he had received it by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

John tells in Revelation how he received it direct from Christ: "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, what thou seest write in a book.

In Rev. 1:1, we have a text that puts the verbal inspiration of the New Testament beyond all doubt: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John."

Again and again the writers of the Bible say that the word of the Lord "came unto me," or "thus saith the Lord," or "I saw in a vision."

GOD'S WORD IS TRUE

God's Word is true,

Tells what to do.

Your Lord believe;

Never deceive.

 If you're in doubt,

 Why not find out

 Just why you are

 Wand'ring afar?

Take up God's Book;

Search it, and look,

And you will find

That God is kind.

 And He wants you

 To be so true

 You'll live your life

 Just for your Christ.

Let Him get hold,

Then let Him mold

Your life for you...

He'll make it new.

 Now, on bent knee,

 Just humble be;

 Stop all your sin

 To obey Him.

Come, yield to God!

His straight way trod;

Love will abound

With Christ around.

He came to save
Us from the grave,
From the "wide gate,"
And from "hell's fate."

Then after years
Of joy or tears,
That blest reward
With Christ, our Lord.
Is not Christ's home
For saints alone?
Yes, they will rise
Up to the skies.

'Twill be the pure,
Who did endure
Their trials here
On this "old sphere."
What joyful bliss!
Just think on this—
Heaven above,
Where all is love!

So meet me there,
Up in the air,
Where mansions fair
Are waiting there.
For if you don't,
Or if you won't
Do your Lord's will,
Then there is still

A hell below,
Where those will go
Who turned their back
On God's straight track.
There, fire will burn,
And you will yearn
For some release,
But it won't cease.

You chose your way;
Now, there you stay.
Your "Book of Life"
Was full of strife

And vain glory,
Not Christ's story.
Now judgment day
Brought you your pay...
Weeping, crying,
Longing, sighing,
Wishing you had
Been good, not bad.
But lived a life
Following Christ,
Working for Him
Till He'd come "again."
See Christ sighing,
Bleeding, dying
On Calvary
For you and me.

-Irene Stout

OBITUARY

MARY F. KELLER

Sis. Mary F. Keller, born April 10, 1908, in Richland, Pennsylvania, departed this life February 4, 1996, at the age of 87 years. She is survived by three daughters, Elizabeth, wife of Edwin Stauffer of Newmanstown, Pennsylvania and Dorcas, wife of Nelson Myers, and Rhoda, wife of Rudy Shaffer, both of Manheim, Pennsylvania; two sons, David E., husband of Ruth Keller of Lebanon, Pennsylvania and Fred E., husband of Lorraine Keller of Myerstown, Pennsylvania, twenty-four grandchildren; forty-nine great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and a twin brother, Marvin F. Eberly of Schaefferstown, Pennsylvania.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Elder Ammon B. Keller, a son, Titus B. Keller and his wife, Anna; three grandsons and two brothers.

Mary gave her heart to the Lord in her teenage years. She and her husband, Ammon, became members of the Lititz Dunkard Brethren Church in February, 1941.

Mary often expressed love and concern for her family and friends and remembered them frequently in her prayers.

The funeral service was held Wednesday, February 7, 1996, at the Lititz Dunkard Brethren Church. Elder Virgil Leatherman and Ministers Kenneth Wilkerson and James Eberly officiated at the services. Burial was in the Millbach Community Cemetery.

The family wishes to thank each of you who have remembered us in prayer and for the loving support shown to us with cards and flowers.

NEWS ITEMS MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Elder Henry Walker is 12409 Terrace View Court, Waterford, CA 95386. His telephone number remains the same.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The Lord willing, the West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to Revival Meetings, September 20 through September 29, with Bro. Wayne Burgess of McClave, Colorado as our evangelist. Evening services will start at 7:45 and Sunday evening at 7:00.

All are cordially invited to come and worship with us. Remember to pray for these services.

Sister Diane Heisey, Cor.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

Brother Dennis St. John from Ohio will be joining us to conduct revival services beginning Sunday, September 29, and ending with the Lovefeast celebration on Sunday evening, October 6. Your prayers/presence would be inspiring and encouraging to us during these efforts.

Sister Dorcas Shelly, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Our Revival Meeting will start October 18 and run through 27. Bro. Harley Flory from Pleasant Ridge, Ohio will be our evangelist. Come and pray for these meetings.

A few Sundays ago our congregation was singing the song, "More Like Thee." I had to think, is that really our desire? Do we know what we are singing? "Never let me from thy footsteps stray, Keep me in the narrow way. Pure without and pure within, Keep me ever from the ways of sin. Meek and lowly, ever kind and true, Like thyself in all I do."

Are our desires to be more like the world or more like Christ, so someday we that crown of life could win?

Our prayer is that we might be drawn close to our Saviour and strive to be more like Christ each day. May we see a revival in each of our hearts so that others who see and know us will be drawn to Christ.

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 1996

October 6 - The Comforter: The Spirit of Truth - John 15:26-27, 16:1-15.

1. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would "Reprove the world" of what three things?
2. What other works of the Holy Spirit did Jesus mention here?

October 13 - "Ask and Ye Shall Receive" - John 16:16-33.

1. Why should we always ask in Jesus' name when praying?
2. Explain how it is possible to have peace in Christ and in the world tribulation?

October 20 - Jesus' High Priestly Prayer - John 17:1-26.

1. What did Jesus say in His prayer about the unity of believers?
2. For whom did Jesus pray this high priestly prayer?

October 27 - Betrayal and Denial - John 18:1-27.

1. Why did the band of men and officers fall to the ground at the words of Jesus, "I am He"?
2. Explain how Peter could be so bold in some ways and yet so afraid of being fully identified with Christ?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 1996

October 6 - Little Evils - Prov. 6:6-23, Ecc. 10:1-20, I Cor. 5:6-8.

1. In the sight of God are there big evils and little evils? Explain.
2. Explain how the little evils in our life are like dead flies in the ointment of the apothecary.

October 13 - Perilous Times - Gen. 6:1-13, II Tim. 3:1-17.

1. In Noah's time, why did God destroy most of his creatures along with the corrupt people?
2. In the midst of a corrupt world how can we as God's people "Be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"?

October 20 - A Great Deceiver - Gen. 3:1-24, Matt. 4:1-11, II Cor. 2:10-17, II Cor. 11:13-15.

1. In what ways was the temptation of Christ like the temptation of Eve?
2. How can we discern between what is of God and what is of Satan?

October 27 - Our Protection - II Cor. 16:7-9, Dan. 3:15-25, 6:11-23, Luke 21:18-19.

1. How is it possible to have a perfect heart toward God?
2. What must we do to be assured of God's protection?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 19

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

I SHALL NOT BE MOVED

As a tree beside the water
Has the Savior planted me;
All my fruit shall be in season,
I shall live eternally.

Tho' the tempest rage around me,
Thro' the storm my Lord I see,
Pointing upward to that haven,
Where my loved ones wait for me.

When by grief my heart is broken,
And the sunshine steals away,
Then His grace, in mercy given,
Changes darkness into day.

When at last I stand before Him,
Oh what joy it will afford,
Just to see the sinner ransomed,
And behold my sov'reign Lord.

-Alfred H. Ackley

“MAKE IT AS SURE AS YE CAN”

Pontius Pilate is considered one of the most-despised men of all history. As the judge of Jesus, wanting to retain the favor of Caesar, he was controlled by his political sense. He condemned Jesus to be scourged and crucified at the urging of the corrupt leaders of the Jews. He somewhat realized the power of Jesus. He knew Jesus had been delivered to him for condemnation because of the jealousy of the Jewish leaders. He wished to wash his hands of the whole, sordid affair. His wife warned him because of the dream that had troubled her. He understood more than we might think, but he lacked moral courage.

He gave in to their demand for the crucifixion of Jesus. He had sought to deflect them by offering a choice between Jesus and Barrabus. Under any other circumstances, they would never have desired any leniency for Barabbus. They chose a thief and murderer over Jesus. They were willing to make this dubious choice so they could get rid of this radical, blasphemer who claimed to be the Son of God. He would deflect the affections of the people from them to Himself. They seemed to have less insight than the pagan, Pilate. They, who claimed to be God's Chosen People, should have recognized and followed Jesus when He came unto them, but they rejected Him.

Yet, some of His words bothered them. After they had persuaded Pilate to crucify Jesus, they began to have some doubts themselves. He had expired upon the cross. His body had been removed from the cross. The body had been hastily prepared for the grave. Now, instead of exalting over what they had accomplished they began to

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worry. They wanted to make sure that there would be no occasion for His disciples to steal his body out of the grave. The disciples then might claim that He had arisen, just as He had claimed that He would. This end would be worse than the beginning. They went to Pilate the next morning, seeking a seal and a guard over that tomb. He allowed them to do as they wished. His words sound less than hopeful that they could accomplish what they hoped. He told them to make the burial site as secure as they could. His insight suggests that he wondered if they could really secure it as totally as they wished.

They made sure the body was still there. They made sure the huge stone was set before the doorway of the burial cave. They blocked it as well as they could. They sealed around the stone. They placed a wax seal across its face, so any disturbance could be detected. They placed guards to watch so no one could disturb that grave.

Did they succeed in making it secure? They could not secure it. Jesus arose. Their efforts were totally futile. That grave could not hold Him. They could not stop Him.

Like the rock in front of the burial cave, people try to secure their lives against the claims of Jesus. He claimed He would arise the third day and He did. He also has a claim upon each of our lives. His claim is based upon creation, redemption and obedience. If a person is unwilling to yield to His claims they are like the Jewish leaders trying to seal the grave against His resurrection.

Their denial will be no more effective than that of the Jews. Although men may attempt to keep Christ from control of their lives, they will find, in the end, that they made a poor choice. There are many things that attract the efforts of people in this life. They may try to accumulate property. They may try to control great corporations. They may amass great fortunes. They may have great athletic success. There are many other areas of life where people try to secure a great standing. Even if they are successful in these endeavors, they will have failed to have secured their lives beyond the influence of Jesus Christ.

If they refuse to accept Him as their Savior and Lord in this life they will have to meet Him as their judge after this life. They can be born again into the family of God. If they do not avail themselves of this opportunity in this life, they will miss all opportunity to realize that relationship. Instead of a homecoming welcome to Heaven, they will face a fearsome entrance into the eternal punishment of Hell.

As secure and sure as they may think that they can make their lives according to their own plan, they are only set for failure. It is a

pity to waste a lifetime of energy and planning on a certain failure. Far better to invest that time and effort into something that will produce a far greater reward at the end.

Have you tried to make your life sure without Jesus Christ? Learn from the failure of the Jewish leaders in trying to make sure the tomb.

M.C.Cook

BUILDING A CHURCH TEAM

Part 3

So far in this series, we have seen that building a successful church team requires commitment and character.

A third quality essential in building a church team is trustworthiness. Trust is the bridge of every relationship.

The Bible commands us to love one another. We are also commanded to forgive each other. But, on the other hand, trust needs to be earned.

Sometimes, a person squanders their trust. When that happens, it takes a long time to build up trust for that person again. As fellow Christians, we still love them. We choose to forgive them. But the element of trust must be earned. This is the balance in submitting to leadership. We submit to leadership who have earned our trust. In return, we need to let them lead!

We need to grow toward trustworthiness. Each of us needs to develop a proven track record, so we can, in turn, trust each other.

On a professional sports team, when the coach or captain calls out a play, each player needs to be faithful in his assignment. Each person's assignment will be different. They are all important. One can not worry about the other's assignment. Each needs to be faithful to the task given to him.

Suppose, for example, you are in the infantry of the Army. You are allotted a few soldiers and given an assignment. Your task is to take a hill at a certain latitude and longitude, by a certain time. As you attempt to take the hill, you encounter resistance. So you decide to choose an easier path than the one in the plan. At the assigned time, you end up at different coordinates than where you were assigned.

Suddenly, shooting breaks out. There is a lot of confusion. After a while, you and your fellow-soldiers are shot dead. What happened? In the confusion, your own army knew you were supposed to be at an assigned place. When your shooting issued from a different location, they thought you were the enemy. So your own army fired on your position. You were killed by "friendly fire."

When your own army finds out they killed you, they will be sorry. It

will be written down in the books as a mistake. Still, you and your fellow soldiers will be dead. Yes, in this scenario, your death would have been an accident, but you would still be dead.

This clearly illustrates the need to be faithful for those who are serving in the armed forces. It is just as important to be faithful and trustworthy when serving in the army of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!

We need to be **DEPENDABLE!** We each need to earn the respect of those around us. If someone consistently has "bad" insights into how to solve problems, those around will not be very willing to listen when he offers advice on how to solve a problem. Trust needs to be earned.

We are to hear from God. We need leaders who have a proven track record, and who have displayed that they hear from the Lord in challenging situations.

Perhaps you have seen examples of trustworthiness in a volleyball game. When the ball comes to you, you have to hit it! Your team is depending on you! If you fumble the ball, you have let your team down.

Watching a successful volleyball team, you will notice that the team members set the ball up for one another. That way another team member can get a good hit from the right angle to slam the ball over the net to the opposing team.

Are we able to learn from this simple illustration how important it is that we, who are on the Lord's team, work together? Can we see how crucial it is that we support each other as we do battle with the enemy, who is Satan and his evil forces?

To be continued
Brother Bob Lehigh

THE MARK OF A GOOD SOLDIER

II Timothy 2:3, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier for Jesus Christ."

Soldiers for Jesus Christ? How many of us can truly call ourselves soldiers in the Army of the Lord? Verse four says, "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. Being totally given to another is an oriental concept that few of us westerners understand. The scriptures are full of servanthood, and yes, even slavery. We westerners are free individuals and cringe at the thought of giving our lives fully to another. Perhaps this is part of the reason why Biblical Christianity has so few takers in the New World. We are

not talking here of modern "Christianity", with its psychology, its modern and inaccurate Bible versions, and its "feel good" theology. How many have denied themselves and taken up the Cross of Christ?

The Apostle Paul had been betrayed by many whom he thought were his friends. These things will befall all who serve Christ. Many have been discouraged when faced with such setbacks. Paul tells us that we must endure hardness. Soldiers in this world are taught to fight and kill. Soldiers in this world lose their comrades. They are taught to do these things, to endure these things, and not be discouraged. We, as Christians, **MUST LEARN TO ENDURE WHAT WILL NATURALLY HAPPEN.**

Soldiers of this world fight and die for causes that only pass away. Our cause is eternal. Where are we? Verses eleven and twelve of this chapter state it well, "For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer we shall also reign with him: If we deny him, he will also deny us." Are we actively fighting on the Lord's side, or have we been wounded or sidelined or discouraged by this walk? In the fourth chapter of II Timothy we are given the duties of the Christian warrior. Are we fulfilling these duties? Paul said he fought a good fight. How about us?

Fight on, my soul, fight on,
Till all thy foes must yield;
Thou canst not wear the victor's crown,
Till thou hast gained the field.

Follow the Saviour on,
Where'er He leads the way:
Through fiery trials and through scorn,
He leads to endless day.

Though all thy friends turn foes,
And Satan threats and storms,
He gently guards, and always knows,
To keep you safe from harm.

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THE FOUNDATION OF GOD

II Timothy 2:19, "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

A building is only as strong as its foundation. We do not have a basement under the house but merely a crawl space. It was discovered that there was a serious moisture problem in this area. This, in turn, entailed two possible catastrophic results. The first was the obvious danger of rotting timber. The second was the possibility of termites. We could have ignored the problem and persuaded ourselves that the house would stand for our lifetime and that was all that was important. That would not have been using good wisdom. Instead we took steps to correct the problem.

We praise God that His foundation standeth sure. All the wayward ways of man cannot change His immutable truths and sovereignty. We can rest on the promise that God has the whole world in His hands and is in full control of all circumstances. This is sealed by the truth that the Lord knoweth them who are His. We do not have to concern ourselves with judging who will enter Heaven and who will not. God is more than able to take care of this. He is also able to keep us from falling. When we are washed in the blood and baptized in the Spirit we can be assured of God's continual presence. He does not leave us to contend with the trials and tribulations of life on our own. He knows that we are mere mortals, made of dust, with a carnal nature that desires things contrary to the will of God. He has set us on the solid rock of Jesus Christ and helps us to fight the winds of temptation and the waters of wrong desires.

We can be secure in this knowledge and ignore the last part of this verse, which we see as a warning to us as individuals as well as to the Church. While the foundation of God standeth sure, we have the obligation to depart from iniquity. We have the responsibility to take care of the foundations given unto us. We would like to look at three of these foundations that are in danger of erosion.

The first foundation we would like to look at is the firm foundation of God's Holy Word. We can understand the attack on the Bible by those who claim to be atheists or agnostics as well as those who are a part of some other religion. But today the major attack on the Word of God is coming from those who claim to be a part of the body of Christ! They no longer believe in the miracles recorded in Holy Scripture. They question the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. They try to convince individuals that their own works are sufficient for salvation. Is it any wonder that in place of warning those who name the name of Christ to depart from iniquity they assure them that God will accept their sinful ways and practices.

The second foundation we would like to think about is the foundation of respect. While the world has always been full of sin and

the desire for holiness has always been lacking in the vast majority of people, there was always a healthy respect for morals among the majority of individuals and a respect for the Bible within most hearts. Today the dress and actions of society as a whole shows a lack of respect for God and for themselves.

This leads into our third foundation. The foundation of morals. The advent of Hollywood movies began a decline in the morals within society at large. At one time, many within the Church taught that a couple should not have any physical contact, including kissing, before marriage. The Hollywood movies helped to demolish the guidelines that helped to keep a chaste relationship. Loose dating practices that involved switching from one partner to another on a frequent basis became the norm. Multiple marriages soon followed. Today those who once condemned the Hollywood movies sit and watch the same thing on television. Many now teach that movies are not wrong as long as you make careful choices.

This verse teaches that God is sovereign and that man has a free will. We can ignore and excuse our iniquities by accepting the erroneous teaching of unconditional eternal security or by convincing ourselves that our good works will outweigh our evil actions. God's foundation standeth sure and His judgment is certain if we do not confess and forsake our iniquities.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOUTH

Bankruptcy

Many bankruptcies are declared these days, even among Christians. What does the Bible have to say about this practice? Is bankruptcy ever permissible without being a violation of the Scriptures?

To understand the implications of bankruptcy, we need to first define what it is. When a person or business is declared insolvent by a court, he or it is unable to pay its debts or obligations. That is a declaration of bankruptcy.

Many things can lead to that declaration: a sudden downturn in expected income in comparison to money already obligated; the loss of a job and too long a time to recover before losing one's possessions; a failure to pay off your debts in a timely fashion, which in turn forces you to fall behind on your obligations.

The basic bottom-line cause of bankruptcy is to be so deeply

indebted that income is insufficient to satisfy obligations. Ultimately, that forces creditors to demand payment. If the person or business declares bankruptcy, which is a protection offered by our judicial system, the creditors stand to lose part or all of the money owed to them.

While bankruptcy is legally acceptable under certain conditions, it is not morally and ethically acceptable for the Christian. In Psalm 37:21 we learn that to borrow and fail to pay is wickedness. The name of the Lord is dishonored by one of His people failing to honor what is owed. There may be a rare circumstance where a Christian has no other recourse than to face bankruptcy. Should that occur, the court itself may determine what is to be done regarding repayment percentages to creditors. The Christian is obligated to honor the full original obligation even if this decision is made. If he does not, he will be defrauding his creditors of their rightful due. It is important to work with creditors to meet obligations in full beyond the limited repayment percentages that the court establishes. That is in keeping with the Scriptural teaching concerning a good name. (Proverbs 22:1)

We must be cautioned to guard ourselves from extensive over-obligation either personally or in our businesses. Should the unexpected occur, we can not consider bankruptcy an option just to avoid repaying what we owe. It does not matter what provisions are legally available. We are commanded in Romans 13:8 to base our obligation to others on love, not finances. If we do that, we will be kept from losing important relationships and will ultimately fulfill our obligation in a God given way.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 1, 1936

AFTER CONVERSION

William Root

(Mark 12:30) "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."

In the hearts of all who have been thoroughly converted, who walk in the light of God there soon comes a conscious hunger for deliverance from everything that is contrary to God's will, and for more complete and increased conformity to the divine nature.

The deeper the experience the deeper will be our hunger and the greater will be our hatred toward everything that hinders communion with God and of loving Him with all our heart, and with all our soul,

and with all our mind, and our neighbor as ourselves.

Our Savior plainly recognized this fact when in His sermon on the mount He declared, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

There remains in the hearts of true Christians those who have been born of the Spirit, those who are conscious of real love, and faith and hope toward God, those who are begotten of Him in soul: a desire to put away that old inherited nature which is corrupt, which Paul terms the "old man" and the "carnal mind, that is enmity against God."

I think all will agree with me that all true Christians should hate that inherited evil nature, which we find in the natural man, and strive against it and yearn for deliverance from it.

The religion which is taught in both the old and the new testament are one and the same religion.

From the beginning of time God has demanded that His people should love Him perfectly and entirely. We should love God with all the capacity of our being. No rival affection should find place in our hearts. In the law given by Moses he said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Christ also gave the same command in declaring our duty under the gospel. (Matt. 22:37-38) "Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind; this is the first and great commandment."

Then again, if the carnal mind is enmity against God and is not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be. As we read in Rom. 8:7, God then in commanding us to love Him with all our heart naturally provided for the removal or cleaning away of everything that would make it impossible for us to obey Him.

The word agrees to that statement, for to the Old Testament saints He promised, as we read in Deut. 30:6, "And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed to love the Lord thy God, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live."

And to us under the new dispensation He says, (1 Jno. 1:7) "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth from all sin."

Then again, God has declared that His wrath is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness in men. (Rom. 1:18) "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.

God loves righteousness, but He hates iniquity. (Heb. 1:9) "Thou

hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity: therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows."

(Prov. 8:13) "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the forward mouth, do I hate."

God cannot consent to evil, for He is of purer eyes than we are and He cannot behold it. He cannot look upon iniquity, (Heb. 1:13) "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?"

God commands us to be holy, for He is holy. (Levi. 11:44) "For I am the Lord your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy." (I Pet. 1:16) "Be ye holy for I am holy."

After we are freed from our bondage of sin, we can know that our old man is crucified. Paul says in Rom. 6:6, "Knowing this that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

Can it be God's choice that the nature which He has declared to be "enmity" against Himself should remain in the human heart? We think not. After our conversion we should be "pure in heart." Jesus said, (Matt. 5:8) "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." And in I Jno. 3:3, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as He is pure." Purity of heart can be found only by faith in the cleansing power of Jesus blood. After conversion then the cry of the soul should be for purity for the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit in purifying the heart is but a preparation for His indwelling.

(John 14:17) "Even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him; but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. The Holy Spirit will lead the converted, new born soul into all truth." (Jno. 16:13) "Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come He will guide you into all truth."

Dear friends it is beyond question plainly revealed to us that it is the will of God that we, his children, should "grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth." Then we are assured that the path of the "just" is as a "shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

(Psa. 16:11) "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore." And in Psa. 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?"

After conversion we should go on and continue to increase in all of the fruits of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-23.) For if we do not increase in love to God and our neighbor, if we do not have more and more of the mind that is in Christ, if we do not feel more as Jesus felt when He wept over Jerusalem and when on the cross He prayed, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do," if we are not more concerned over lost souls, and over the desolation of Zion the church, in these last days, when so many are falling away, if we are not more and more inclined to self denial and self sacrifice in behalf of souls, if we are not increasingly drawn out in prayer for all saints and for the upbuilding of God's kingdom; if we are not reflecting in our lives and characters more and more of the divine image, continually hungering and thirsting to know more and more of the love of God that passeth knowledge, if we do not these things, then there is surely something sadly wrong in our Christian experience and in our practice.

Paul has said, "And the Lord makes you to increase and abound in love one toward another and toward all men, even as we do toward you." (I Thess. 3:12.)

ARE YOU PREPARED TO DIE?

"Leaves have their time to fall
And flowers to wither at the north-wind's breath
And stars to set-but all,
Thou hast all seasons for thine own, oh! Death."

Kind reader, are you prepared to die? You may meet death at any time. The many sudden deaths around us stand as so many sentinels to warn us of our danger. The dearest interests of your future state depend upon your condition when the shadowy king strikes you down. Around us and within us are daily warnings of his approach. Every rivulet that ripples over its pebbly bed says, Return. Every falling leaf reminds us of our mortality. Every withering flower speaks in perfumed eloquence and warns us that the bloom of health that mantles the cheek must wither and fade. Every pain and ache that racks our body tells us that the fell destroyer is doing his work, and appeals to our pride, our avarice, our licentiousness and all that is within us, and tells us to take warning and prepare. Death is a reaper before whose sickle we all must fall. And with all the wisdom and power we possess we cannot tell when he will strike us, neither can we stay his iron grasp or melt his heart to pity. The stern, irrevocable decree has gone forth that it is "appointed unto man once to die."

It is a solemn thing to die, to go away from the world, from our

business, from our friends with all the pleasant associations, and return no more forever. If we had no knowledge of what is beyond the grave, death would indeed be a terrible thing to contemplate and still worse to experience. It would be a "dark valley," "King of Terrors," "chilly waters." And our knowledge only intensifies its horrors if we are not prepared for it. To feel we must leave this life and go to the dark, damp realms of the grave, and then go into the unknown regions to meet an offended God and lose the rich inheritance of his saints, will fill the soul with woe inexpressible. Oh, the thought of the grave when we are not prepared for death!

"There darkness and dampness with poisonous breath
And loathsome decay, fill the dwelling of death;
The trees are all barren and bare.
The pilgrim, who reaches this valley of tears
Would fain hurry by; and, with trembling and fears,
He is launched on the wreck-covered river."

If we are prepared by a holy life, devoted in obedience to God, death has no sting and the grave no terrors. Jesus our Savior took upon himself our nature, that through death he "might destroy him who had the power of death." Having gone down through the dark regions of death he lit up the gloom of the valley with effulgence like that of heaven, thus making the dying couch of his people radiant with the light of his presence, and dignifying it into the gateway from the tribulations of earth to the glories of heaven. The grave is the couch upon which the careworn and weary believer sweetly reposes till the morning bells of eternity call him forth.

"The storms that wreck the wintry sky
No more disturb his sweet repose,
Than summer evening's latest sigh,
That shuts the rose."

"How peaceful the grave! its quiet how deep!
Its zephyrs breathe calmly, and soft is its sleep.
And flowrets perfume it with ether."

"How lovely, how sweet the repose of the tomb!
No tempest is there; but the nightingales come,
And sing their sweet chorus of bliss."

Selected from The Brethren's Tracts and Pamphlets

ALL WE NEED TO KNOW

The Holy Spirit takes possession of the person who surrenders his

or her life to the Divine Will. In daily life it becomes difficult to do the wrong thing, because the Holy Spirit will deprive such a person of peace and comfort: likewise, a person will have to forfeit calm and contentment if they omit doing that which they are called to do.

God is loving. God is gentle. God loves us deeply if we live for the sake of loving Him. It is that simple. That is all there is to know.

Brother Allan Smith
900 W. Main St.
Ephrata, PA 17522

MARRIAGE

MARCH-COOK

Mr. Timothy Cook, son of Brother and Sister Milton Cook of Beaumont, California was united in holy matrimony with Miss Amber March, daughter of Mr. Albert March of Athol, Idaho and Mrs. Alice Magers of Beaumont, California. The wedding was held at 6:00 P.M., September 14, 1996 at the Cherry Valley Grace Brethren Church. The ceremony was conducted by Elder Milton Cook. The newlyweds are at home at 637 Massachusetts Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223.

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE

The Lord willing, 1997 General Conference will be held at the Maranatha Bible Camp near North Platte, Nebraska, June 6-11, 1997. More details will be given later.

Brother Carl E. Reed
Arrangements Committee

AFRICAN MISSION BOARD

Brethren Paul Stump and Rudy Shaffer plan to visit the churches in Uganda in November. Those having items of clothing to send to the orphan children may send them to either of the Brethren by November 1. They will combine the items for efficient transportation, so pin all information you desire to the garments for identification.

Brother Ray R. Reed, Sec.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

The Lord willing, Dayton Congregation is looking forward to our Fall Revival Meeting, October 16 through 20, 1996. The Lord willing, Brother Scott Bross of the Bethel, Pennsylvania Congregation will be

our evangelist. Services at 7:30 p.m. weekdays. The Examination Service begins at 4:00 p.m., Lovefeast at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 19, 1996.

We invite any and all to come and be with us, also remember our little number in prayer that we might all be touched and drawn closer to the Lord and Saviour.

Our PRAYER to all, "I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end." Ecclesiastes 3:10-11.

Sister Lizetta Bittinger, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation plans a Fall Revival, October 20 through 27 with Bro. Mark Cordrey of Modesto, California as evangelist. October 26 will be our Lovefeast. There will be services at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

We invite all to these meetings and ask for your prayers.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

QUINTER, KANSAS

The Quinter Dunkard Brethren Church will be having a Revival Meeting, October 20 through 27, with Bro. Mike Wray as Evangelist.

Our Lovefeast will be held on Saturday, October 26.

Please come and be blessed with us.

Sister Julie Litfin, Cor.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank all of our dear Brethren and Sisters across the nation who have prayed, sent cards and gifts of love in Nathan's behalf. On August 13, his foot and ankle were lost to amputation but his spirit and determination have only grown. We praise God. He is still on crutches and expects to receive his temporary prosthesis very soon. Knowing so many people cared has been the greatest of encouragement to us all. God bless you.

The Roland Reed Family

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXIV

OCTOBER 15, 1996

NO. 20

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HOLDING ON TO JESUS

Holding on to Jesus, with the crown in sight;
Holding on to Jesus, in the dark and light;
Tho' the world may tempt me with its luring dross,
Holding on to Jesus, clinging to the Cross.

If I hold to Jesus, Jesus holds to me,
And each path of duty plainly I can see;
Over all I triumph, and securely stand,
Holding on to Jesus, by his mighty hand.

Ere you can unshaken to the Savior hold,
Earth must be forsaken, self and love of gold;
Gladly you must suffer ev'ry earthly loss,
Holding on to Jesus, clinging to the Cross.

Bid farewell to pleasure, let the idols fall,
And the Savior only be your all in all;
Nothing shall disturb you, tho' the tempests toss,
Holding on to Jesus, clinging to the Cross.

-Alfred J. Hough

MEDIOCRITY

One of the problems of modern American society is mediocrity. It affects almost every facet of American living. Mediocrity is an attitude of being pleased with doing or producing what will just get by. There is a lack of striving to do any better than average. Some realize their imperfection, so they only try to get by. Others let laziness dictate their efforts. Others are uninterested. Some do not care.

Mediocrity affects all types of people. They may be young or old, rich or poor, executives or blue-collar workers. They are in every part of the country. They live in the cities, in small towns and in the country. They may be single or married. They may have families or be childless. They may live in the slums, the inner cities, the suburbs or the posh, exclusive neighborhoods.

Not only is mediocrity seen in the serious, worthwhile endeavors of life. It is found also in recreational activities. Many who play a sport do not give a concentrated effort. They go through the motions without really putting a great amount of extra effort into the activity. If recreational activities do not evince a sustained exertion, a more serious task likewise will receive only a lackadaisical effort. School studies will be done just to pass the required tests. There will be no pursuit of knowledge beyond what is required to pass. Just enough effort will be put forth to receive a diploma. That diploma should signify that an effort has been made. In reality it only signifies an effort that was just enough to get by.

These examples might be blamed on children and young people, but they have learned this attitude from adults. Employees may work to preserve their positions, but not further the employer's well-being. Workers, whether skilled or unskilled, may put in their time, but not be

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productive. They produce items that just pass inspection. There is a lack of craftsmanship. Those who provide a service will serve as little as possible. It is not only government bureaucrats who fail to give friendly, personalized service. It can be any clerk or agent who cares not for the customer but for his own paycheck.

This mediocrity, unfortunately, can be found in Church as well as in society. That is the one place where it should not be found. As society's ideas and attitudes have affected the Church, mediocrity has found a dwelling place. Since the Church is composed of individual members, mediocrity is found in Christian's lives.

Christians no longer labor for others as if they were laboring for Christ. They do not want to work a little harder, smarter or be more helpful in their employment. Paul warns the believers to be diligent in their labors. They were to serve their masters as those who served God. They were not to purloin or be men pleasers. They were to earn an honest day's pay for an honest day's work. Intentional mediocrity is a form of dishonesty.

Jesus warned the Church at Laodicea that He would spew out those who were lukewarm. He could abide the hot or the cold, but not the indifferent, the untrying, and the lazy. He makes a comparison with drinking water. Nothing can quench the thirst on a hot day like a drink of cold water. Other beverages have been promoted as thirst quenchers, but they all come short of satisfying as well as cold water. Hot water can be used for making tea or coffee. These drinks can satisfy. Hot water alone can be used to decrease the appetite before a meal. Lukewarm water is good only for gargling. Water that is used for gargling is not swallowed. Jesus has the same feeling for the mediocre believer that we have for gargling water. It can be helpful but not pleasurable.

One of God's purposes in creating people was that they might bring pleasure to Him. Man was created to please God. A person with a mediocre attitude can not please God. God created the Earth and set man over it. Also, He gave His greatest Gift, His Son, as the redeemer of individuals from their sins. He gave so much. He hopes there will be something within man that will respond in a similar way. No person can ever give as much as God has given. Certainly, something more than mediocrity is His due.

It is so easy to be influenced by the mediocre society surrounding us. The expectation among our fellow workers is that we do not put forth an extra effort. The prevailing attitude is that a person should not do any more than is absolutely necessary. That attitude can be infectious. After growing slack in temporal affairs, it is not hard to become lax in Spiritual affairs.

As a Christian living in a world content with mediocrity, how do you

give the total effort God desires of you? Do you make an effort in both temporal and Spiritual affairs?

M.C.Cook

THREE UNUSUAL INDIVIDUALS

Genesis 5:24, "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."

Hebrews 11:5, "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before His translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God."

II Kings 2:11, "And it came to pass, as they went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."

James 5:17-18, "Elias (Elijah) was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."

Genesis 14:18-20, "And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all."

Hebrews 7:1-3, "For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; Without father without mother without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually."

As we study Holy Scripture we find many things that can not be understood or explained completely by the human mind. This has brought doubt, confusion and false teaching into the lives of many individuals. Some things must be left to the sovereign wisdom of God. We must accept Scripture as it reads if we completely understand it or not and if it fits neatly into our theological presuppositions or not.

Three individuals, mentioned both in the Old and the New Testament, Each is very unusual. They have caused discussion caused by the difference of opinions within the earthly church. We believe each of them represents a characteristic of God.

The first individual we wish to look at is Enoch. There are those who believe that Enoch did die. Hebrews 11:5 seems to teach this that he did not die with certainty. This leaves many questions that we find no answer for. For us the outstanding thing about Enoch was "that he pleased God." We see Enoch as representing the righteousness of God. John 12:43 describes the vast majority of those who claim to be believers today. "For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." It seems very few are willing to name sin anymore. Instead, sin is spoken of in a very general way. At the same time popular Christianity is busy trying to persuade Christians that what was once considered sin is no longer thus.

The second individual we wish to look at is Elijah (called Elias in the New Testament). Here again, there are individuals who do not believe that Elijah was taken up to Heaven without seeing death. As with Enoch, this is an area that we have difficulty fitting into our theological interpretation and understanding. But the Bible says "and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven." The ministry of Elijah included many miracles, one of which is recorded in the book of James. We see Elijah representing the power of God. Many within the earthly church have come to the conclusion that miracles are not possible today. Although we are persuaded that much deception is connected with the modern "miracle workers," we believe God is the same God now, as He was within the pages of Scripture!

The last individual we want to look at is Melchizedek. This is, perhaps, the strangest individual of the three. Not only do the Scriptures say that he never saw death but that he was never born! Most commentators say this is a matter of records and not to be taken literally. We see Melchizedek as being representative of the superiority of God. One of the major problems within the earthly church is many want to bring God down to human standards and limitations. When we talk about God we must include God the Father, God the Son, (The Lord Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. Three in One and One in Three. God is superior to humanity in thought, word and deed. To deal with the subject of His superiority in full would require at least a whole manuscript and probably a book.

We will allow those with greater wisdom and knowledge than we have to wrestle with the difficulties of Scripture as illustrated in the lives of these three individuals. Our desire is to recognize the righteousness, power and superiority of God and allow them to be a part of our daily lives and desire that they may make us better witnesses for Christ.

Brother James M. Hite
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BUILDING A CHURCH TEAM

Part 4

So far in this series, we have seen that in order to have an effective Church team, we need the qualities of (1) Commitment, (2) Character, and (3) Trustworthiness. A fourth crucial quality for building a successful team is leadership.

Leadership is a display of discernment, as well as consistency. A quality leader will not be "bouncing around" from one thing to another, or have variable mood swings from one day to the next. Rather, a quality leader will consistently show insight in applying the Word of God in practical, everyday situations.

If someone on the team displays wrong insights, and has a poor track record, the team will not listen to him. This is for a good reason! If the team heeds the advice of one who is not wise, they will lose the game.

The Bible is our guide and our rule book in the game of life. The Word of God is the manual from which we derive our basic rules of play. From it we can all secure wisdom for getting along in daily life. But the team needs leaders who can teach us how to apply the Word to our daily lives as we participate on the team of the Kingdom of Heaven.

John says, "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." (1 John 5:2-3). To have a successful team, we need to carefully seek out the commandments of Jesus Christ, and heed them.

Each of us needs to look out for the good of the team! I feel that a serious flaw in the Dunkard Brethren Church is that many of us are looking out for ourselves FIRST! It takes all the gifts working together to equip the saints to DO the work of the ministry.

For example, consider how a football team works. There are eleven players who choose to submit to a coach, so their team, hopefully, can win over the opposing team. Those eleven players study hard. They practice hard. They all flow together in order to make a play. All their efforts are for the good of the team. No one person gets all the glory. Even when the quarterback does get "praised up," where would he be without the linemen and the running backs, and the other members of the team who support him?

Sometimes it seems nearly impossible to get eleven people in our Church to join together and to work together for a common cause, let alone an entire church working for the good of the team (to the glory of God)!

We need leadership to have an effective team ministry. We need to let the leaders lead! I believe that in many situations, football teams are doing quite a bit better than we are! We, as a church, need to establish leadership. Then, we need to respect our leadership and willingly submit. We need to allow the leader to be the leader.

A rather interesting test of a congregation's willingness to be led is in the area of congregational singing. Does the congregation willingly follow the song leader? Or are there some in the congregation who stubbornly refuse to allow the song leader to be the leader?

I remember an occasion some years ago, when I was asked to lead singing at a particular place. Once into the singing, I found out rather quickly that they really did not want a song leader at all. Rather, they only wanted a "song starter." There was a lady sitting in the front row who actually "led" the singing! I only started the songs!

Think about the difference between "song leading" and "song starting." One requires leadership, the other does not. "Song leading," when done correctly, can lead to beautiful harmony in unity, where everybody starts and stops at the same time, and holds the appropriate notes together! "Song starting" generally has its share of discord, and the timing is not together at all.

I believe that this basic attitude of "not being willing to be led" creeps into other areas. We are not sure we want someone else to lead us in the singing. And we are not at all sure that we want to entrust to others the leadership of our church. Do we tend to have a basic refusal to let leaders be leaders?

Do we lovingly and willingly submit—with Biblical accountability? Or are we suspicious, displaying a lack of trust, and acting somewhat distrustful of each other?

A leader needs to be humble. God does better with those who are dependent on Him. If a leader is good, and he knows it, then God has a very difficult time using him. Humility and a dependence on the Lord are very key issues in this area of Leadership.

Those of us on the team need to warn each other about the possible moves of the enemy that we see coming. Each team member has had different experiences, therefore he is aware of the enemy's moves in different areas. When all the members of the team pool their observations and insights, the team can be aware of how the enemy is operating, and can take the appropriate actions, both defensively and offensively.

One area in which the enemy has made quite a large inroad within the plain people is to get them so upset with each other that they divide, and start new groups. When this happens, it's usually not long until another group splits off the new group.

But, you see, if the team was aware of the dynamics of the

enemy's operation in this area, they would heed Romans 16:17-18, which says, "Mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."

There comes a time when people who cause offenses and divisions need to be kicked off the team. Sometimes, we try to absorb everybody. But there is the possibility that if we see a split coming, maybe we should not always try to hinder a person from leaving the church. If we are dealing with a person who is causing divisions and offenses, far more damage may be done if we try to keep them in.

A self-seeking spirit of independence is OUT. We, who are committed to working with the team, need to voluntarily choose to submit. How would we listen if our Captain, the Lord Jesus Christ, was actually, physically present so that we could see Him, and He was personally leading us? Would we confuse the signals?

How well do we hear the signals? How well do we hear the signals that come from the Lord Jesus through our Brothers and Sisters in the faith?

A part of the duty of leadership, as well as for each member of the team, is the ministry of "enabling." The leadership (ministry) needs to support the front lines: The "front lines" are each of the members of a local congregation. They are on the front lines all week long. So the ministry (the servants) are there to "enable" the remainder of the congregation to do battle on the front lines as they face the hosts of Satan every day in their daily lives!

The congregation needs to support the leaders. Our leaders need our prayers, love, support, forbearance, loving correction, and freedom to dig into the Word (time constraints)!. Expectations of leadership in the free ministry are very high! Ministers are expected to do the work of a Pastor—in addition to maintaining a regular job. If we do not watch out, that leaves our family and our study time in the dust. That can not be! We might as well quit the ministry rather than give up our families and our study time to Satan in order to measure up to the expectations of the congregation.

The captains of the local church need to have vision. They need to have goals. They need to lay out clear steps for accomplishing those goals. In this way, the congregation can be moving forward spiritually! There will be an "air of expectancy" as each member of the team eagerly anticipates what the Holy Spirit will accomplish in each service.

Some qualifications of a leader of the Team include: wisdom, discernment, leadership, never self seeking. Instead, a leader needs

to be team-oriented, accurate about his observations, and he needs a "proven track record" in order to be trusted.

God will work with us. Just think of the example of Peter! Jesus Christ gave Peter the Keys to the Kingdom (see Matthew 16:18-19). Shortly afterward, Peter blundered! Jesus told him "Get thee behind me Satan." (Matthew 16:22-23). That's about as strong a rebuke as could be made to a person! Later, Peter made an even bigger blunder. He denied he ever knew Jesus three times right before the crucifixion. But God did not take "the Keys" away from Peter. Instead, He helped Peter more fully to trust and depend on Him.

For an example of leadership, we can again look at the game of volleyball. If there is a good captain on the team, that person can be sure that the more skilled players help the semi-skilled players, so that each one works for the best advantage of the team, rather than for each individual on the team to look good in front of the watching crowd.

To be continued
Brother Bob Lehigh

FOLLOWING THE CROWD

"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil..." Exodus 23:2.

"And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen..." Luke 19:37.

"And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate." Luke 23:1.

Our scripture amply illustrates that it is dangerous to follow a crowd. Jesus, of whom it can be said that He never did any evil, was not worthy of such a death because He is the Son of God. Yet it pleased God to bruise Him and to set Him at nought. The same crowd that praised God for His presence were gnashing on Him with their teeth just a few short days later. It is only by the Grace of Almighty God that we do not follow in the footsteps of this crowd.

The Church has always frowned on Christians going to places of amusement. May it always do so. We should not go where the crowd goes, or do what the crowd does. There was a time when a multitude followed Jesus. At first they sought after the loaves and fishes. Then perhaps it was the healings, and maybe even His stirring messages. At last the crowd wanted an earthly king to overthrow the tyrannical Roman government. When this did not come to pass the crowd turned on Jesus like a pack of dogs. "Crucify Him! Give us Barabbas!" When asked about Jesus and what should become of

him, the crowd said, "His blood be upon us and our children!" Do not wonder why the Jewish race has been cursed over all these years. Not many years later this crowd was destroyed and dispersed by the Roman legions.

About thirty years ago there was a Soccer Match in Brazil. Over two hundred thousand souls attended. Soccer is an obsession with millions in Europe and South America much as baseball is in North America. At this particular match a referee made a debatable call. A fight broke out in the crowd. Hundreds panicked and rushed the exits. Over three hundred were trampled to death in just a few seconds. We also remember an instance where two jumbo jets crashed on the runway. They never even got off the ground, yet over five hundred people were killed.

I am thankful that my only interest when it comes to large groups of people would be a church conference or a camp meeting where the saints are gathered together. Yet fewer and fewer churches are following Jesus, so fewer and fewer camp meetings are worth attending. I believe we have reached the point where those who have reached heaven that we know and love are greater in number than those here below. Hebrews 12:1-2 says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a CLOUD of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race which is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;" Here the word is, "cloud", not, "crowd". We must look up to see it, and we must see it by faith. This is the "crowd" we should follow. Why? Jesus answers that question in Matthew 7:14, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Where is the crowd now?

The pearl that worldlings covet
Is not the pearl for me;
Its beauty fades as quickly
As sunshine on the sea.
The road that many travel
Is not the road for me;
It leads to death and sorrow,
And endless misery:
But there's a road that leads to God,
It's marked by Christ's most precious blood;
The passage here is free-----
Oh, that's the road for me!

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 15, 1936

EMPTY TALK

Ida M. Helm

Absalom, the vain, rebellious son of king David was dead. He became the victim of his own vanity. Caught by his beautiful locks of hair of which he was so proud he was entrapped and kept dangling till his enemies put an end to his life, a worse than empty life.

The news of the victory of king David's men must be carried to Mahanaim where the king was. Ahimmaaz aspired to carry the message. For some reason Jacob did not wish that Ahimmaaz should be the bearer of the news, but dispatched Cushie to run with the news. So persistent was Ahimmaaz to run also that he carried his point and was permitted to go. He started on such a brisk run that he reached Mahanaim ahead of Cushie, and as soon as he came within hearing distance of the king he shouted, "All is well." Coming nearer he fell down to the earth upon his face before the king and said, "Blessed be the Lord thy God, which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king."

Then David asked the question that was uppermost in his heart, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" Here the faint heartedness of Ahimmaaz asserted itself, and he sought to evade the question. It was a hard thing for him to tell the king his son was dead, and he told an untruth. He said, when Jacob sent the king's servant and me, thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what it was. Ahimmaaz was a friend of David and before this he had a message of cheer to the king, but the news to be told today would bring sorrow.

Perhaps it's harder to tell the whole truth to a friend when it cuts than it would be were the person a stranger. But the whole truth must be told at any cost, but Ahimmaaz just talked. I suppose he thought he must say something. Ahimmaaz knew about Absalom's defeat and death and David's victory. No wonder Jacob told him he had no convenient message to carry and sent Cushie, the man that would tell the news exactly as Jacob told him.

It has been said that "the family of this man Ahimmaaz never dies." Empty talking.

In I Cor. 4:18-20, Paul tells of some cousins of Ahimmaaz. Empty talkers they and they were puffed up. He said, "I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and I will know not the speech of them that are puffed up, but the power. For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power."

A church may be tempted to talk about its eloquent preachers and teachers, its riches, its cultured ministry more than to rejoice over that

very thing for which the church exists, the lifting of men and women to the high plain of Christian living, to reflect the light of Christ to the dark, sinful places of the world. That church with its beautiful painted windows, its loud siren, its elegant music may have a zeal for God, but unless it brings the whole gospel message of truth to the people, both old and young, it will not meet the approval of God. Empty talking.

The Jews crucified Jesus although "of the rulers many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory of men more than the glory of God." They just talked.

Intimidated by the creature, not fearing nor regarding the Creator, the Lord of glory, they just talked. A man may flatter himself as to his knowledge and his ability, but if like Ahimmaaz he tries to evade telling the whole gospel truth as Jesus gave it to us, his words are empty talk. God has sent men to preach his gospel to every creature, but he needs twice born men, regenerate Spirit filled channels through whom to send the blessed word of God, the message of salvation. God's pardoning mercy flows only through one channel and that is the atonement brought to earth by the man, Christ Jesus, the Son of God.

If Ahimmaaz go out to preach today the church must like Aquilla and Priscilla, take him and teach him more thoroughly the things of God, he must be converted and then when he has studied the Bible and knows the truth as it is in Jesus he may go and preach the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ. How careful we should be that our friends do not intimidate us or shake our steadfastness for Christ. We may stand firm against the adversary's grosser and more flagrant assaults on our determination to belong wholly to the Lord, but he may come as an angel of light and intimidate us. Our hearts may grow faint at the reproof or sneers or flimsy arguments of a friend. (?)

The only hope we have of leading the people to Christ is to show them the worth and preciousness of our Redeemer, and the best way we can do it is by yielding ourselves to the Holy Spirit that he may reveal the Christ in us. We must study God's word if we would have a message from Him to carry to the world and we must be willing to tell it exactly as he told it to us or it will not avail.

"It behooved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead...and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things." (Luke 24:46-47)

"And he said unto them, go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15.)

We do not know why God chose men to preach His gospel instead of choosing angels, but He did. But they must be regenerate men, for "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (I Cor. 2:14.)

St. Peter tells of some who "speak great swelling words of vanity." (II Pet. 2:18.)

Great swelling words of vanity, spring from a mistaken idea of what sin really is, they show self-righteousness deeply rooted in spiritual pride. They tend to cancel our duty to God, they fail to accomplish making of us what God intended we should be. The liberty they propose is such as leads away from God; that fears not the destroying power of Satan, nor hates the subtle sin that would blind our eyes to the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. Empty talk.

Paul wrote to Timothy, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Tim. 2:15.)

Paul's admonition to Timothy needs special attention today. When so many unworthy topics and so many unworthy words are heard from the pulpit. If these preachers would only always remember they are speaking in the sight and hearing of God they would find things to say far different from what they do say sometimes. They tend to the subverting of those who listen to them. Empty talk. Worse than worthless.

The extension of God's kingdom is not brought about by show or eloquence of speech, or much talking, but by spiritual influence, the Holy Spirit reflecting the life of Christ in His followers and attesting to presence of Christ in the church and the individual and becoming a power in men's lives, lighting up the dark corners of earth and leading men and women to open their hearts to the influence of the Holy Spirit. The kingdom of God is not in word, it is not in empty talking.

THE BODY OF CHRIST

The church is the body of Christ
From young to very old.
It is like this human body,
Working parts of the "fold."

God gives everyone some talents,
And all are not the same.
So if we cannot preach like Paul,
Then we are not to blame.

If the Lord shall give us wisdom,
Then we shall not glory,
But with a spirit of meekness
Study His great story.

He gives us our understanding—
We can glory in this—
That we know His lovingkindness,
Judgment, and righteousness.

We'll use what God has given us
To make our life worthwhile.
We'll be cheerful, thankful members,
Going the second mile.

In this body, we need the foot;
We need also the hand;
The head and smelling are useful—
God gives each one of them.

If the whole body were an eye,
Where would the hearing be?
How can one say to another,
"I have no need of thee?"

We are given a mind to think
And God's Spirit to lead...
While His written Word will guide us;
On it we are to feed.

We're submissive to each other
In the fear of the Lord,
Giving thanks to God and Jesus,
Living in one accord.

Be ye kind one to another,
Using the gifts God gave,
Clinging fast to what Jesus taught,
Our souls striving to save.
-Irene Stout

NEWS ITEMS

APOLOGY

The Editor offers his apology for misplacing two recent news items that should have appeared several issues ago. One, a thank you note appears here. The other, an announcement of a now-past revival meeting, did not appear. The failure to appear was not through any fault of that congregation's correspondent. The Editor is sorry for the inconvenience and dismay caused by his error.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone that contributed to the Holy Lands tour fund for Bro. David and Sis. Mildred Skiles. The presentation at General Conference was a surprise and blessing to them. The Lord willing they will be traveling to the Holy Lands and Greece on a tour directed by Bro. Harold Martin in April of 1997.

In Christian Love,
Brother and Sister Dale Meyers
Brother and Sister James Meyers

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

October 26 is the date for the Englewood Congregation's Lovefeast. If it is the Lord's will, we will meet at 11:00 A.M., 2:00 P.M. for afternoon service, with the Lovefeast at 7:00 P.M. Come and enjoy Saturday and Sunday with us.

The Lord has blessed our congregation with another baptismal service bringing Brother Tim Kauffman into God's Kingdom. Praise God's Holy name! We want his wife, Mindy, to feel welcome.

Sister Ruth Speicher Cor.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

The Lord willing, we at Goshen plan to have four evenings of meetings. They will run from 7:45 P.M., October 31 through November 3. Brother Robert Carpenter will conduct the services. An afternoon service will begin at 2:00 P.M. and Lovefeast that same evening of November 2 at 7:00 P.M. Services continuing Sunday morning and closing Sunday evening. Sunday evening service to begin at 7:45 P.M. also.

Sister Velda Gunderman, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1996

November 3 - "What is Truth?" - John 18:28-40

1. In the words of Jesus, why did He come into the world?
2. How can we hear the voice of Jesus today and be "of the truth"?

November 10 - The Crucified Christ - John 19:1-30.

1. Who is the source of all power?
2. Explain the complete meaning of the words of Jesus, "It is finished."

November 17 - THANKSGIVING - Phil. 4:1-23.

1. What should be included with our prayer requests?
2. Explain how you can discern between needs and wants.

November 24 - Prophecy Fulfilled - The Burial of Jesus - John 19:31-42.

1. Name the prophecies unknowingly fulfilled by the soldiers.
2. Who is, "He that saw it bare record"?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1996

November 3 - Nonresistance - Isa. 9:6-7, Jn. 18:36-40, II Cor. 10:3-6,
Rom. 12:14-21, Gal. 5:19-26.

1. How did Jesus fulfill His title, "Prince of Peace"?
2. Why do not the servants of Jesus fight?

November 10 - Nonconformity - Rom. 12:1-13, I Tim. 2:8-15, I Pet.
1:13-16, 3:3-5, I John 2:15-17.

1. Explain the difference between conformation and transformation.
2. In addition to speaking, what is included in "All manner of conversation"?

November 17 - THANKSGIVING - Psa. 105:1-5, 106:1-5, 107:21-22, 111:1-10.

1. For what reasons do we owe God our thanks?
2. What are "The sacrifices of Thanksgiving"?

November 24 - Athletics - I Cor. 9:24-27, Gal. 5:7, Phil 3:14, Heb. 12:1-2, II Tim. 4:6-8.

1. Explain the importance of temperance in the life of an athlete and in the life of a Christian.
2. Name some of the weights that can hinder us in the Christian race of life.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (Act of August 12, 1970; Section 3685, Title 39, United States Code). Showing the ownership, management and circulation of The Bible Monitor, published semi-monthly at Wauseon, Ohio 43567, October 15, 1996.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 21

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

I TRUST IN THEE

Father of Jesus Christ, my Lord,
My Saviour and my Head,
I trust in Thee, whose powerful word
Hath raised Him from the dead.

In hope, against all human hope,
Self-desperate, I believe;
Thy quickening word shall raise me up,
Thou shalt thy Spirit give.

To Thee the glory of Thy power
And faithfulness I give;
I shall in Christ at that glad hour,
And Christ in me shall live.

Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees,
And looks to that alone;
Laughs at impossibilities,
And cries, "It shall be done!"

Charles Wesley

A MIRACLE

Miracles are mind-boggling. They can not be understood or explained. A supernatural power is necessary for miracles to happen, for they defy the rules of nature.

Several miracles are described in the Bible. God moved in mysterious ways to overcome natural forces for the benefit of His Chosen People. He led them dryshod through both the Red Sea and the Jordan River. He provided for their material and physical comfort during their journey to the Promised Land. He protected various individuals from dangers. He destroyed their enemies and their cities. He preserved the dwelling places of His People. It would be hard to number all the miracles described within the Bible.

We are reminded of miracles at the birth of a baby. It is a miracle that God created the human body so a baby could be conceived and born. Surely, the human reproductive system could not have been formed through evolution. It is too complex to have been formed by chance.

The conception, development and birth of a child is one miracle after another. How can two microscopic cells develop into a child with all the attributes of the human race? There must have been a superior genius behind the design of such a system.

In the hearts of a child's parents and others is the hope that that child will accomplish what it was born to do. It is hoped the child will grow up to have a loving relationship with parents, siblings and other relatives. It is hoped the child will develop a circle of friends. It is especially hoped that the child will experience not only this first birth,

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but the second birth as well. We want our children to take advantage of all the abilities that they possess. We want them to live up to the potential that comes packaged within each new life.

The birth of a baby is a great miracle, but the greatest of all miracles is being born again, Spiritually. The possibility of the second birth is itself a miracle. Since Adam and Eve's fall in the Garden of Eden, human beings have been at variance with God. Men have sinned. They can not meet the perfect requirements of God, therefore they are eligible for damnation. Men have tried to invent many ways to overcome this situation. They have tried to ingratiate themselves with God through various deeds and acts of piety. They have tried to bribe God into approving their efforts, but in vain. Some have thought they could take Heaven by storm. Others have thought to get in through subtlety, but all have failed.

All their efforts have been in vain, for God, Himself, has made available the only way that will succeed. This is as much a miracle as the plan of salvation itself. Although all sin ultimately is against God, He has initiated the method that will bring sinners into fellowship with Him. God extended His love toward sinful humans. Without this Grace of God, there would have been no way for men to ever find favor with Him. Miraculously, God did extend grace toward mankind. He did not do it in a half-hearted way. He gave of the very best that He had. He sent His only begotten Son to become the propitiation for the sins of men. There was no other possible way for a sacrifice to be made for sinners. God required a perfect sacrifice. Only God could provide that perfect sacrifice.

Jesus qualified as that sacrifice because He, unlike all other humans, was sinless. On the cross, He could become their sin-bearer. His only sin was the sin of all mankind of all times and climes laid upon Him on the cross. God approved of Him as the perfect sacrifice. This He attested to in the resurrection. If Jesus' sacrifice had not been sufficient, His body would have remained in the grave. There would have been no first Easter.

The miracle was complete. God against all concepts of justice sent His son to be the atonement for the sins of the human race. This was a miracle. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life. He qualified to be the atonement. This was a miracle. Jesus completely followed His Father's will and gave Himself on the cross as the sacrifice for men's sins. This was a miracle. His sacrifice was accepted by God as shown in His resurrection. This was a miracle.

Miracles are wonderful. The Bible is full of miracles used by God

to confirm His care for His people. The birth of a child is one of the greatest events we can be a part of in this world. The greatest miracle is the Spiritual rebirth of a person. A sinner becoming a saint is a miracle.

You have been a part of the miracle of birth. Have you also been a part of the miracle of the Spiritual rebirth?

M.C.Cook

BUILDING A CHURCH TEAM

PART 5

In building an effective church team, we have seen that we need the qualities of (1) Commitment, (2) Character, (3) Trustworthiness, and (4) Leadership. A fifth crucial quality for building a successful team is flexibility.

Flexibility is the ability to adjust a little within the circumstances. Adaptability is the opposite of rigidity.

For example, someday I might be called upon to drive something besides a Ford vehicle. While I certainly do not think having all Fords in your driveway makes you a better Christian, yet it does happen that currently (as this is being written) I do have all Fords in our stable. But if I were die-hard, I would refuse to drive a Chevy or Dodge, even though it might help for some reason in a particular situation. That would be the opposite of being flexible.

To be narrow and rigid is to lack mental or spiritual health. If you cannot adapt to the toilet tissue being rolled out the wrong way, and you are really serious about that, you have got quite a problem! If you cannot adapt to your Brother's or Sister's little quirks, then you have problems in the area of working closely together on the team.

For example, on the Masada, during the overthrow of Judea by the Roman Army around the time of A.D. 70, when the 967 Jewish Zealots saw they were going to be there a while, their leader, Eleazar, assigned each family a designated living quarters. If he had not, a fellow Zealot's twitch of the elbow might have bothered someone more than all of the Tenth Legion encamped around below! Eleazar had the insight to know the play, and yet at the same time remain flexible. Conditions do change on the field.

God knows everything ahead of time. He does not want us to know everything ahead of time. God could easily tell us what is coming and what we should do. He is trying to build wisdom and faith in us.

No game is static, and no game goes exactly as planned. So we

need to lay out the plan, and then, in the heat of the battle, we must realize that nothing is going as planned! We have to know where to start, and where we are headed!

Flexibility is the ability to formulate a plan, and then to understand that "it is not going to work like this," and be able to adapt to the needs of the particular battle you are in.

Again, we can turn to the game of volleyball for some examples of flexibility. In a volleyball game, when the ball comes to you and you are going to hit it, CALL THE PLAY! When you "call the play," the player next to you realizes you called the play, so that even though he was going to hit the ball, he backs off from his plans. That's flexibility in "real time."

Did you ever witness a "crack-up" on the volleyball court? Yes, they do happen. Sometimes they seem to be somewhat unavoidable! At other times, someone needs to be more "instantly flexible."

In conclusion, we saw that in order to have an effective team ministry, the following ingredients are needed:

- (1) Commitment
- (2) Character
- (3) Trustworthiness
- (4) Leadership
- (5) Flexibility

Note that these articles on teamwork were not at all comprehensive! There are many other factors that enter into making a successful team! This series of articles serves only to stimulate your thinking. What other factors do you think it takes to run a successful team? Try living them out!

Also note that it takes a heap of co-operation to build a successful church team. And it takes "bushels" of encouragement! You can hardly get enough of that! We all are tossed around in the world all week long. When we get to church, we need to be built up — not be banged around some more by our "loving" brothers and sisters in the faith! May God help us learn this!

Then there is something the Team can really do without: Gossip and Complaining. These two ingredients cannot be tolerated. They will bring down a team. They will bring division. They will bring death. The Bible says we are to mark those that do these things, and do not have anything to do with them (remember Romans 16:17).

Paul warns in the Galatians 5:15, "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."

Let's use our mouth for EDIFYING (Ephesians 4:29), for building

each other up, and for encouraging each other for a job well done. We get plenty of criticism in the world—every day!

Remember, we believers are on the same team. We need to stop tearing down other team members. Your other team members are not the enemy! We dare NOT shoot each other in the back.

If we have an effective team ministry in our local church, we are carrying out the command of John 13:35; "By this shall all men know ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Everytime we demonstrate our love for one another, we have scored a point against Satan! Love never fails.

The principalities and powers of the darkness knew Jesus, and they knew Paul. But they did not know the seven sons of Sceva, who were trying to cast evil spirits out of man. In Acts 19:13-16, we read about the seven sons of Sceva.

"Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them so that they fled out of the house naked and wounded."

Do the principalities and powers of darkness know YOU?

What kind of team member are you?

-This is finally the conclusion!!-

Brother Bob Lehigh

VOWING A VOW

"If a man vow a vow unto the Lord, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth." Numbers 30:2

From the Hippocratic Oath (the Ancient Greek oath made by doctors as they graduate from Medical School): I will give no deadly medicine to any one if asked nor suggest any such council, and in like manner I will not give to a woman a pessary to produce abortion. With purity and with holiness I will pass my life and practice my art. I will not cut persons laboring under the same stone but will leave this to be done by men who are practitioners of this work. Into whatever houses I enter I will go into them for the benefit of the sick and will abstain from every voluntary act of mischief and corruption, and further, from the seduction of females and males, of free man and

slaves.

The Hippocratic Oath, though ancient and made to the Greek God Apollo, has been the standard of many centuries. They promise to do no harm, yet millions of babies and countless people have been mercilessly dispatched in the past twenty-five years.

A report in the New England Journal of Medicine says "one out of five intensive-care nurses have intentionally hastened patients' deaths to relieve their pain and suffering." A survey of 1600 nurses found that seventeen percent said they had been asked by patients or family members to perform euthanasia or assist in suicide. Sixteen percent said they had hastened a patient's death by only pretending to provide life-sustaining treatment ordered by a doctor. We can conclude that these figures are probably higher than indicated because these nurses openly admitted their wrong, and there is no doubt some who could not admit it.

It is my understanding that nurses also vow a vow, like doctors, to do no harm. In the medical field, in which trusting souls put their lives into the hands of trained individuals, these vows mean less and less as the years roll on, and as morality and the sanctity of human life go out the window.

A hundred years ago divorce was nearly non-existent. People began to see that they could sin and the government and society as a whole would look away. In 1964 Nelson Rockefeller ran for Presidential nomination but his showing was poor, chiefly because he was divorced and remarried. In 1980 Ronald Reagan was elected, his divorce and remarriage hardly mentioned. Times change, and the morals of a society may degenerate, but God's Word will stand.

I am concerned for the degeneration of the morals in the field of medicine. This writer has spent nearly twenty years in nursing, thinking of it as a means to help people. Modern morality states that to stop someone's suffering is morally right, yet what are the consequences of "playing God" and sending someone into eternity before their appointed time? Murderers do no less when they kill in cold blood. Modern thinkers feel it is okay to shorten a pain-laden life as if it were the same as a dog or a horse. We owe the patient so much more. It is not wrong to make a person comfortable, but our place is not to usurp God.

In the past, before modern medicine destroyed deathbed scenes, family and friends would gather around the loved one's bed as he traveled to the next world. Many times the departing soul would admonish the gathering to meet him in heaven, and glorious

testimonies and rejoicing would fill the air. Today, the death scene is often filled with noise and machinery, or at best the loved one passed away accompanied by the stupor of mind-filled drugs. O friend, death is not the end! Prepare for eternity! If you do not, your place with the devil is secure! Trust in Jesus. He has gone to prepare a place for us. Even though most practitioners of modern medicine no longer believe there is anything after this life, there are yet a few that ply their trade with God-given compassion. There are yet a few who have vowed to do no harm.

Thou source of joy supreme,
Whose arm alone can save
Dispel the darkness that surrounds
The entrance to the grave.

Brother Lynn H Miller
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SCRIPTURALLY SOUND SALVATION

I John 5:13 "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

The most basic doctrine of Holy Scripture and that which is of eternal importance is perhaps the most debated topic of religious significance. We do not claim to have all the answers to portions of scriptures dealing with salvation that are difficult to interpret. We desire that God would receive glory and that error would be avoided in our effort to deal with this vital subject. We confess our human weaknesses and lack of perfect understanding.

First of all scripturally sound salvation is a limited salvation. I John 5:11 tells us, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life if in his Son." There is no salvation in the many religious leaders in the world. The Lord Jesus Christ is THE way, not a way.

Secondly, scripturally sound salvation is validated by the presence of the Holy Spirit. I John 4:13, "Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his spirit." There is much discussion and debate as to how and when we receive the Holy Spirit in our lives. We are convinced that the Scriptures teach that we receive the Holy Spirit at the time of our salvation, not at some time later. We are also convinced that there is a connection between the

receiving of the Holy Spirit and baptism. Those who never have an opportunity for baptism but call upon the name of the Lord for salvation as well as those who never receive baptism we leave in the hands of God.

A third truth of scripturally sound salvation is that it is not a one time experience but a lifetime walk. It is true that there must be a time when we personally accept the finished work of Jesus Christ and repent of our sin. We must also walk in the light of God's Holy Word each day of our lives. I John 1:6-7, "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sins." There is no scripturally sound salvation without the shed blood of Jesus Christ, but this does not eliminate the need for walking in the light.

A fourth reality of scripturally sound salvation is the fact that it includes keeping the commandments given in the New Testament. One of the most popular teachings in the present earthly church is that salvation has nothing to do with your works. Any connection between works and salvation is labeled LEGALISM and disdained by leading preachers and authors of our day. It is true that human works have nothing to do with our salvation but obedience has everything to do with it. "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments." I John 2:3. It is God's love that provides our salvation. There is a very close connection between God's love and God's mercy. There is not one of us who deserves salvation. However, God in His love and mercy has provided a way to obtain it. I John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

A fifth, and final, truth of scripturally sound salvation is the fact that it can be lost. I John 2:24-25, "Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life."

We have used the book of I John to provide a look at scripturally sound salvation. Men can quote such verses as I John 3:9 "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." to "prove" that we can come to a place of sinless perfection or to teach unconditional eternal security. This is the word of God and we desire

more perfect understanding. But the Apostle John ends this epistle with a warning against falling away. "Little children, (saved individuals) keep yourself from idols. Amen." Amen, let us desire scripturally sound salvation.

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 1, 1936

GRACIOUS INVITATIONS

L.A. Shumake

"O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God, for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity." (Hosea 14:1.)

The strain of this chapter differs from that of the former chapters. Those were generally made up of reproofs for sin and threatenings of wrath, while this is made up of exhortations to repentance and promises of mercy, and with these the prophet fitly closes.

This chapter is as applicable to God's people today as it was to Israel and for an invitation to return and a promise to restore us to our former prosperity should be good news to every sin sick soul. "Asshur shall not save us." When we realize that the federations and alliances of today cannot save us we will be ready for repentance. True repentance sees the wrong as so flagrant a violation of the beneficent divine law, that it forgets the less in the greater and cries out with David, "Against thee and thee only have I sinned." (Psa 51:4.)

None can understand himself without a painful sense of the contrast between what he is and what he should be. "Repent" has in it a sound of hope and improvement.

The message is not limited, but meets every man, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23.) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (Rom. 6: 1-2)

Restoration. "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him." "Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts." (Mal. 3:7.)

A new life is the best and most sublime penitence. It is recorded of

Augustine that he had written over his bed in large letters, that he might not forget it: "The sacrifices of God are a broken and contrite spirit." (Psa 51:17.) The proof of real sorrow for past sins is a life without sin.

Repentance and restoration are only initial steps in the new life which they inaugurated. Beyond them is still something higher.

Good news came to Zacchaeus when he stood and said unto the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." And Jesus said unto him, this day is salvation come to thine house, for so much as he is the son of Abraham."

Righteousness: "For the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them." (Hos. 14:9.)

Dear reader, God's word is calling you, you are urged to accept, that the Father might be glorified that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. And that knowing the time, it is high time to awake out of sleep, for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

WHEN JESUS COMES

These brief thoughts came to my mind and were largely penned during the commencement exercises at the Garrett Community College on Saturday, May 18, 1991.

If you were to have a little chat with Jesus, as He interviewed you for the rapture, would He look for your name on the church rolls? Would He ask which one you belong to? Or would He say, "Were you there when I died on the tree? Do you remember me? The thorns on my head, the mockery, the nails in my hands and the spear that pierced into my side?"

Then He might say, "The place I have prepared for you is so splendid, that you can not feel at home unless you are able to fit into that praising throng. That make-up, on your beautiful face that I have given you, must come off before you go. Your jewelry must be removed because up there, you see, nothing is so cheap. My brother, that long hair will shame you when you stand before the throne. My sister, your hair was given you for a glory to your Creator. You will need all of it that you can get."

Then He might ask, "How about your apparel? Everyone up there will be modest."

Then He might ask, "Have you truly, in reality, been born again?"

You might answer, "Sir, I need to go to the dressing room for just a minute. I will be ready soon. Just give me a little time."

When in your closet and on your knees, you might find it to take longer than you had thought. There were bad attitudes, pride, lust, jealousy, and many more things. You hoped your visitor would be patient for you know He loves you very much.

By the time you came out of your closet, you may have found your invitation to be His bride had come and gone.

Homer Mellott
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DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

by Douglas Leatherman

From October 15, 1954 Bible Monitor

A few of the basic foundations of our church are that God is our Maker, creating the heavens and the earth, all living things on the earth and finally man; that man disobeyed God and therefore was separated from having direct communication with God or is privileged to go to Heaven that God prepared for him; that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and was sent to earth, in the form of man, that He might teach man God's will and shed His blood that man's sins may be forgiven and he might have the opportunity to go to Heaven; that the Holy Spirit is also a part of the God-head and works in the minds of men to help them to understand God's Word.

We consider the King James Version of The Holy Bible as our foundation and history book of God workings with men. The first part of the Bible is the Old Testament and gives an account of God's dealings with men before Jesus Christ came to earth. The second part of the Bible is the New Testament, that which gives the dealing of God with humanity since Jesus Christ came to the earth and will be the law until the earth is destroyed.

The Dunkard Brethren Church is an out-growth of the religious reformation in Europe. It was founded in 1708 on what they understood to be the commandments of the New Testament. At the present most of the members are in the United States, at least of our denomination. A number of groups have grown out of this same source, some large and some small, but our practice is very similar to that originally started. Our congregations are divided into four districts in the United States.

Our main officers are Elders, Ministers and Deacons, whose duty is to supervise the work of the church, both at home and throughout the brotherhood. These officers are to teach, practice and enforce the

commandments, we believe the New Testament teaches. We have local councils, district councils and a general council, where all questions and problems are discussed and decided upon. Each congregation has a presiding Elder, who is its highest official.

Our church-house are strictly for teaching from the Bible and to worship and praise God. Our ministers and officers receive only free-will gifts to help support them. We try to cover the whole Bible in our Sunday-school over a period of years.

All who believe in the Bible and are willing to accept its teachings can become members if they promise to quit the sins of the world. After we believe in Jesus Christ and ask forgiveness for our sins, we get into the church by Christian Baptism, which we believe the New Testament teaches is triune immersion. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you", Matt. 28:19. John 3:1-7 tells us about this baptism or being born again by water, not into the earth but into God's Kingdom.

The most sacred service of our church is the Communion service. We try to carry it out and regularly practice it just as Jesus taught it, to His followers as we read about in John 13. We have a preaching service for us to think about ourselves as God sees us, then feetwashing service, the Lord's Supper and finally: each one taking of the communion bread, which represents Jesus' body; and also the unfermented grape-juice which represents Jesus' blood.

We believe in dressing plain and simple and not adorning our bodies with unnecessary things. We have a prescribed order of dress, for all members, as has been decided upon by our general councils. Romans 12:1-2 tells us, "I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable into God, which is your reasonable service, and be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect, will of God". We believe Jesus' commandments are for those who believe in Him, have accepted Him and try to do what He said.

We believe in loving one another and in fact all men. We do not believe in fighting or going to law to get advantage of someone else. What differences may come up from time to time, we believe should be settled by agreement between one another or if necessary that the church might decide it for us. We believe that God put us here to have clean, healthy living so we could work for Him. We believe that

each person must decide for himself what he will do in his life and that each one will be responsible for what he does.

from school essay

Editor's comment: Could such an essay be written in a public school today? Would our young people today be able or willing to write such an essay?

BROTHERLY LOVE

Peter Nead

The church acknowledges but one head: the Lord Jesus Christ. She acknowledges but one law book: the Testament. She believes that all the members are obliged to observe all the laws and ordinances of the one law book. The members consider themselves as belonging to one family. They are all brothers and sisters, and as such feel and know themselves to be bound under the strongest ties to love one another, and if required, to lay down their lives for their brethren. Consequently, if one member rejoices, all rejoice. If one member weeps, all weep. The true church is opposed to high things; that is, everything that has a tendency to exalt the carnal mind. Therefore, the members are taught not to mind, but reject high things, and that they should be as uniform in their manners and customs as possible, and these manners and customs to be in harmony with the doctrine of the cross: that their souls and bodies, and all that appertains unto them, might be brought under subjection to the doctrine of Christ.

Quotations from Theological Writings by Peter Nead, 1866

Selected by Brother Lynn H. Miller

WHAT IS IN A NAME?

Some years ago, the Datsan Motor Company spent more than a million dollars to change its name to Nissan.

Leonard Sly changed his name to Roy Rogers. He and several other actors of movie fame did quite well financially after they changed their names.

The following story was reported as true at the time. There was a boy small for his age and very shy. He thought if he could change his name, he could do so much better in this life. He went to his father and told him what he wanted to do. His father asked him what he wanted to change it to. The boy said "William Howard," since William Howard Taft was then president of the United States. His father knew a judge, so he arranged for a meeting of the boy and the judge.

When he told the judge what he wanted to change his name to, the judge said all right. From now on you will be known as William Howard. Elated, the boy went home and told his father what the judge had said. His father said he could go by any name that he wanted to, but that it was up to him to make his name amount to something. Others can call you William Howard, but to me you will always be Norman Vincent Peale. The boy went on to become a famous minister and writer of books like, "The Power of Positive Thinking." He died in his sleep at ninety-five.

It was foretold that "Jesus" was to be His name. He was to be the Savior of His people. "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth and the things under the earth. And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father" Philippians 2: 10-11.

We have the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. Do we have any for the rich people like Hunt, Getty, or Rockefeller? Which shows that a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches and loving favour, rather than silver and gold. Proverbs 22:1. The good name endures for many generations. Our fellow men may not think of us as being good. It is what God thinks that counts. There were enough people who wanted to crucify Christ for it to happen. Surely the good men whom we remember had their enemies. This includes King David, Lincoln, Washington and those who were martyred.

People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.

Still, one of the least in God's Kingdom.

Walter C. Myers
5603 Winchester Street
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OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

Feed My Lambs

J. H. Moore

To Peter Jesus once said, "Feed my lambs." By this he meant that Peter should take good care of the young members of the flock. And what was said to Peter is meant for every minister in the list of the faithful. Jesus is especially concerned about the young members of the church. He wishes them well fed upon the sincere milk of the Word, that they may grow and become strong. Should any of them be led astray, they are to be looked after and led back to the flock. All of this should be done carefully and tenderly. In the work of caring for the young the elders and ministers are to take the lead. That is, they should make it their life duty to look after the young. They need fatherly counsel and motherly tenderness.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NOVEMBER 15, 1996

NO. 22

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE

Come, ye thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest-home:
All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker doth provide For our wants to be supplied:
Come to God's own temple, come, Raise the song of harvest-home.

All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear:
Lord of harvest, grant that we Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord, our God, shall come, And shall take His harvest home;
From His field shall in that day All offenses purge away;
Give His angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast;
But the fruitful ears to store In His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come To Thy final harvest-home;
Gather Thou Thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There, forever purified, In Thy presence to abide:
Come, with all Thine angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest-home.

-Henry Alford

FOR THIS WE ARE THANKFUL

During the Thanksgiving season it is a common practice to enumerate the things for which we are thankful. This is a good exercise to remind us of all that we have received. It is an even better exercise if we do it more often than just once a year.

It is hard to pick out one thing to be especially thankful for. This proves how much we have received from God and indirectly from Him through others. There is not a one of us but who have received help. This help may have taken many different forms. It could have been financial. It could have been physical. It could have been good advice. It could have been motivational. It could have been spiritual.

This help given to us by others came indirectly from God. He is the giver of every good and perfect gift. A Christian is inspired by God to give to others since he has received the best Gift of all, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit in the heart of a believer, will motivate that person to give as He gave to individuals during His earthly sojourn. Although God inspires this reaction through His Spirit's direction, He will bless that person as if the action were self-inspired. God rewards those who serve others.

It is difficult to single out that for which we are most thankful. Along with Spiritual blessings, there are also physical and material blessings that are important to us. Some of these may seem trivial and unimportant, yet we are thankful to have and to enjoy them. Some of the physical blessings that we enjoy are very important to us. Good health makes all other blessings more enjoyable. Yet, Spiritual blessings must outrank everything else. All other blessings are only

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for time, but Spiritual blessings are for eternity. Spiritual blessings may be enjoyed by those who have few material blessings. Spiritual blessings may be enjoyed by those who have ill health. While we value these other blessings that have come to us, we must realize that they are not the most important. We should be thankful that God does provide these blessings as well as the great eternal blessings that affect not only our bodies but our souls as well.

God is a God of small things as well as a God of big things. He is concerned with our smallest needs as well as our great, eternal needs. He may not always give us all the little toys of human desire that we want, but when He denies them it is for a greater purpose. Our Heavenly Father does know best. He wants us to have those things and pleasures that will be the best for us, therefore He may deny us some things that would interfere with our Spiritual lives. The world around us does not understand why we should deny ourselves many of the pleasures and activities that they find so indispensable. It is not just self-denial, but God's motivation that would keep us from enjoying what would ultimately be harmful for us. He sees the power of these pleasures to pull us away from full-hearted service and devotion to Him. He realizes, better than we, that these momentary pleasures may be very enjoyable for a season but that ultimately they would be a hindrance in our Spiritual lives. We should be thankful that our Heavenly Father is concerned about the outcome of our lives on this earth. He wants our lives to be successful. He wants this more for us than we do for ourselves.

The Spiritual life He offers us is the greatest of all gifts that could be given to anyone. When we consider the price He paid that we might have that eternal life we can realize how valuable it really is. He gave His only begotten Son to pay the price for our sins and follies. There was no other way that could have satisfied His sense of justice. A perfect sacrifice had to be given to bring redemption to His fallen creation.

We should be thankful that God did provide that sacrifice that we might have eternal life. We also should be thankful that although God was not indebted to us He gave His best gift. Obviously, no person ever deserved the gift that God gave. If God had given as individuals give, He would have played favorites and made His sacrifice available only to certain people. If He had used human reasoning He would have concluded that since none deserved His gift, He just would not give it. If He were motivated by the human passion of getting even, He would have left mankind to suffer the ultimate punishment they

deserved. God is gracious and merciful. He provided His Son, Jesus Christ, to be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of each human being.

At this Thanksgiving Season, for what are you thankful? I dare you name everything. Whatever the size of your list do not forget the Gift that God gave for you.

M.C.Cook

WITH THE VOICE OF THANKSGIVING

Psalm 26:7, "That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works."

All of the readers from America have heard the account many times of how the Pilgrims had a special celebration to thank God for their survival in the new land. This is referred to as the first Thanksgiving. We believe the Pilgrims were sincere believers who gave thanks to God from their heart. They, along with the Puritans, helped to establish a strong Bible basis that this country was founded on. Although they lacked spiritual understanding in some areas, we believe God honored their sincere desire to live godly lives. By the same token, we believe there are Christians today who do not have all the spiritual wisdom that God has revealed.

While this is referred to as the first Thanksgiving, as we already stated, in reality the first Thanksgiving is recorded in the book of Job chapter 38. God speaks to Job out of a whirlwind and asks him the following. "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

While the term "the morning stars" may only be an anthropomorphism, it may also refer to the heavenly angelic-like creations such as the cherubim and seraphim. Many Bible scholars believe the "sons of God" is a reference to the more common angels.

Another point of interest is that many authorities on the scriptural writings believe that Job is the oldest book in the Bible. The book of Job contains many scientific truths that were unknown to mankind until recent centuries. We believe it also teaches that dinosaurs lived at the same time as man and not millions or billions of years before.

The book of Genesis also teaches that all living forms were created within six literal days. Whether or not the heavenly beings were created at this time is a matter of debate. We believe the first

Thanksgiving account would teach that they were created before the creation of the Earth.

Modern man has the audacity to question God, instead of allowing God to challenge his thinking. They claim to have the answer to God's questions to Job in humanistic evolution or theistic evolution. We, the true Church, should publish the truth of a literal six day creation with the voice of thanksgiving. This was the first of God's wondrous works.

We should also publish with the voice of thanksgiving our gratitude to God for the many physical blessings He has provided us. We may think that we supply our needs by our own efforts, but if God does not supply our health and strength we can do nothing. We can even publish with a voice of thanksgiving our thanks for things that are not pleasant to bear, knowing that God is working things out to His own glory. We confess that we find this hard to do at times.

Once again, we wish to publish with thanksgiving the fact that God has allowed me to be a father to three daughters. We recognize that we have not always been the example we should have been. We thank God that He can use our imperfect being to share the truths of His Holy Word with family, friends and those we come in contact with. Again, we confess that we do not do this as often as we should.

While we fail often, we have a Heavenly Father that is perfect in love and judgment. We should try to follow the example our Heavenly Father has given in the area of love and mercy. We can not judge with true judgment as God can. While the Creation is God's wondrous work we publish with the voice of thanksgiving an even greater work of God. The fact that He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to Earth to die for the sins of the world. Praise God that included me.

We often complain about our trials and tribulations. While life will never be a bed of roses, if we took more time to publish with the voice of thanksgiving our gratitude to God we would experience more joy in our daily lives.

Brother James M. Hite
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REFLECTIONS ON A TRIP TO ROMANIA

We are writing this article to testify that God still hears and answers the prayers of those who truly call upon His name.

For years we have heard and read accounts of Christians being

persecuted in Communist-held countries. We have wondered what it would be like to visit such a place. Opportunity came through **Christian Aid Ministries**, which had started an orphanage in Romania.

Upon arriving there, you get the feeling that you have been transported back in time. Progress is at a standstill. Living conditions are very poor. A great majority of the Christians have large families. Their homes have only two or three rooms. Food and clothing are scarce and very expensive.

In thinking of their need, we wondered how we could help these people. The poorest among us are wealthy in their sight.

Yes, we can give them of our abundance, our time, and our labor. But what can we give to help increase their faith in God? After going to several worship services, I came away feeling they have something we could use in our land of plenty.

We found church houses filled with young and old, for both morning and evening services. There is very little transportation, so people walk to the services.

Many church buildings are being built. The churches seem to be growing by leaps and bounds. We attended a baptism service where seven were baptized; ages seventeen to eighty-one years of age. Yet at another place, twenty were baptized, and forty at another.

Have you noticed, as I have, how hard it is to get believers to attend Sunday evening or mid-week prayer services? What would it be like if we had to walk to services?

How many revival meetings must we attend before we see someone accept the Lord? Could it be we are too caught up in this materialistic world and have put God in second place? I believe we as God's people in this land of plenty have more of a challenge to be faithful and true to our God than the believers who have almost nothing.

May we who live in this land of prosperity use these blessings to the honor and glory of God, and not to our own destruction.

Brother Verling H. Wolfe

THE POOR FOR A PAIR OF SHOES

Amos 2:6, "Thus saith the Lord; for three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes..."

We cannot put a price on our Christian life, but many have sought to cheapen it. We look at much of today's "Christian" literature and at the "easy-believism" prevalent in the mainline churches. We know,

for the scriptures tell us, that God hates this type of thing. Matthew 13:22 says that some hear the Word, "and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful." Seeking after the things of this world has caused many to become unfruitful.

Not only does worldly pleasure lead men away from God, but it also warps their values. An unusual example of this is found in Japan. The Japanese love to bowl, and they revere their bowling pins. Instead of throwing the pins away when they become worn, they are burned in a special Buddhist worship service. The Buddhist monks chant prayers seeking eternal rest for the damaged bowling pins. They also have religious services for broken sewing needles and other items of this type.

We may find this amusing, but our values in many ways are not much different. How much of our precious time do we waste while the souls of men are dying? We wear ourselves out trying to provide temporal things. The Scriptures have encouraged us to lay up treasure in heaven. I know a man, though not a Christian, who spends thousands of dollars a year on clothing and other items that all carry the insignia of his favorite brand of beer. I am sure there are professing Christians who spend thousands per year on a hobby, perhaps on a hobby that is not even edifying to the soul.

Will we be held accountable for our affluence? There are millions in this world who would be happy to have one per cent of what we have. In effect, we sell them for a pair of shoes. Would to God that the Church would get its priorities straight and realize that these earthly things will be burnt up.

If we could get just a moment's glimpse of Heaven this article would not need to be written. We would want to tell everyone how beautiful it is there. If we could get one glimpse of hell it would have the same result. We would want to tell everyone how much they need to avoid that terrible place.

The scriptures tell us to beware, lest when we have eaten and art full, that we forget God. Let us be careful that the cares of this life do not overshadow our Christian experience.

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 15, 1936

SANCTIFICATION

D. W. Hostetler

The above subject has been discussed pro and con, and many conflicting theories are taught these days. So I want to call the reader's attention to the scriptural teaching of this very important subject.

There is a system that teaches the first work of grace to be conversion, and that the second work of grace is to seek sanctification, that they "pray through" and find sanctification.

Let me state here that the only way to attain sanctification or become sanctified is to obey God's commands given us through Jesus Christ. In John 17:17, we have a text direct to the point which reads, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." Then read verse 19, where Jesus states, "and for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth."

Now to bow down at the altar (as some do) to "pray through" to find sanctification is pure sacrilege, for this system superimposes sanctification, independent of obeying the truth of the matter.

"Without faith it is impossible to please God." (Heb. 11:6, John 3:18,36.) Without repentance and confessing sin, there cannot be any forgiveness. (I John 1:9, Psalms 32:5, Prov. 28:13, Matt. 8:2, Mark 1:15, 6:12, Luke 13:8, Acts 2:38.)

Baptism is for the remission of sin. (Mark 1:14, Luke 3:8, Acts 9:6, 22:16.) Now these passages clearly teach that faith, repentance, confession, and baptism are the conditions of pardon. This brings us into the light and into fellowship of the household of God. Then the blood of Christ cleanseth us from all sin. (I John 1:7, John 12:35, I Cor. 6:11.)

When people comply with these conditions of pardon, their sins are remitted, forgiven. It is then that we are in a condition to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is sanctification.

Webster defines the term "sanctify" thus: "In a general sense, to cleanse, purify, or make holy." Hear then the prayer of Jesus in John 17:17, which supports this idea: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." In John 15:3, we read: "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." (Acts 15:9.) "And put no difference between us and them, purifying your soul in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren." Here it is made clear by these inspired writers that obedience to the truth of

God is the thing that purifies.

In Eph. 5:26, Paul, speaking of the church says, "That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." Christian baptism is meant here when he speaks of the washing of water (which is commanded in His word) by the word.

Webster further states that to sanctify is to separate, set apart, or appoint to a holy, sacred, or religious use. (Gen. 2:3) "And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it." That is, He hallowed, and set it apart as a holy day. It is to purify, to prepare for divine service.

In Exodus 28, Aaron and his sons were anointed with oil by the command of God into the priesthood, thus being set apart or sanctified for a special work.

The tabernacle, the altar, and all the vessels were sanctified by the sprinkling of water and blood, thus being set apart for a holy use. So the contention here is that it is through the truth that we are sanctified, and that short of obedience to truth there cannot be any sanctification. (Romans 15:16.) We are told that the Gentiles were sanctified by the Holy Spirit. But note that Paul says in reference to the Gentiles that he was the minister of Jesus Christ to preach the gospel of God to them, which he did, and their accepting this gospel and obeying it is just what Jesus said to the disciples, that when the Holy Spirit is come he will guide into all truth. It is clear that the Holy Spirit led these Gentiles to obey the gospel of God, so they were sanctified. In the sixth chapter of Romans we are told that we are baptized into Jesus, therefore we are buried with Him by baptism, that is the old man of sin is buried and the new man is raised by the glory of the father to walk in newness of life, and that we are planted together in the likeness of His death. It is there and then that sanctification takes place.

In the eighteenth chapter of Jeremiah the prophet speaks about Israel in the hands of God being as clay in the hands of the potter. Paul in II Timothy 2 says that "in a house there are vessels of gold and silver and of wood and of earth: and some to honor and some to dishonor." Then he tells us that if a man purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and met for the Master's use, and prepared for the Master's use.

So there can be no intelligent doubt that sanctification is the cleansing, purifying, and the setting apart for a special and a definite use or work for our Lord and Master.

THE PREACHER'S VACATION

The old man went to meeting,
For the day was bright and fair,
Tho' his limbs were very tottering
And 'twas hard to travel there:
But he hungered for the Gospel,
As he trudged the weary way,
On the road so rough and dusty
'Neath the summer's burning ray.

By and by he reached the building
To his soul a Holy place;
Then he paused and wiped the sweat drops
Off his thin and wrinkled face;
But he looked around bewildered,
For the old bell did not toll
And the doors were shut and bolted
And he did not see a soul.

So he leaned upon his crutches,
And he said, "What does it mean?"
And he looked this way and that
'Till it seemed almost a dream;
He had walked the dusty highway,
And he breathed a heavy sigh
Just to go once more to meeting,
Ere the summons came to die.

But he saw a little notice,
Tacked upon the meeting door,
So he limped along to read it,
And he read it o'er and o'er;
Then he wiped his dusty glasses
And he read it o'er again
'Till his limbs began to tremble
And his eyes began to pain.

As the old man read the notice,
How it made his spirit burn:
"Pastor absent - on vacation -
Church is closed 'till his return."

Then he staggered slowly backward,
And he sat him down to think
For his soul was stirred within him
'Till he thought his heart would sink.

So he mused along and wondered
to himself soliloquized:
"I've lived 'till almost eighty,
And was never so surprised,
As I read that oddest notice
Stickin' on the meetin' door,
"Pastor on vacation,"
Never heard the like before.

Why, when I first joined the meetin'
Very many years ago,
Preachers traveled on the circuit
In the heat and through the snow.
If they got their clothes and vittles
('Twas but little cash they got),
They said nothin' 'bout vacation,
And were happy in their lot.

Would the farmer leave his cattle,
Or the shepherd leave his sheep?
Who would give them care and shelter
Or provide them food to eat?
So it strikes me very singular,
When a man of holy hands,
Thinks he needs to have vacation
And forsakes his tender lambs.

Did St. Paul get such a notion?
Did a Wesley or a Knox?
Did they in the heat of summer
Turn away their needy flocks?
Did they shut up their meeting house
Just go and lounge about?
Why they knew that if they did
Satan certainly would shout.

Do the taverns close their doors
Just to take a little rest?
Why, 'twould be the height of nonsense
For their trade would be distressed;
Did you ever know it to happen,
Or hear anybody tell,
Of Satan taking a vacation
Shutting up the doors of hell?

And shall preachers of the gospel
Pack their trunks and go away,
Leavin' Saints and dyin' sinners
To get along as best they may.
Are the souls of Saints and sinners
Valued less than selling beer?
Or do preachers tire quicker
Than the rest of mortals here?

Why it is I cannot answer,
But my feelings they are stirred;
Here I've dragged my tottering footsteps,
For to hear the Gospel Word;
But the preacher is a traveling,
And the meetin' house is closed;
I confess it's very tryin'—
Hard, indeed, to keep composed.

Tell me when I tread the valley,
And go up the shinin' height,
Will I hear no angels singing?
Will I see no gleamin' light?
Will the golden harps be silent?
Will I meet no welcome there?
Why the thought is most distressin',
Would be more than I could bear.

Tell me when I reach the city,
Over on the other shore,
Will I find a little notice
Tacked upon the golden door,
Tellin' me, 'mid dreadful silence,

Writ'in words that cut and burn,
"Jesus absent - on vacation
Heaven closed till His return.

-Author Unknown

FROM THE BRETHREN HYMNAL

Hymn #1

THY GRACIOUS POWER

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue." II Peter 1:3.

One of the strengths of the Brethren is our slowness to change. The landmarks of our faith must be immovable, as all good landmarks are. If you have something good there is no reason to change. The Authorized King James Bible is a landmark that the English-speaking Brethren have used since the Brethren first came to America. (Editor's note: The German-speaking Brethren used Martin Luther's German translation.) For nearly a hundred years the Brethren Hymnal has been used. It likewise is a landmark. Many of the old hymns typify our faith. We have memorized the words just as we have memorized portions of the scripture. There is nothing wrong with this if the words we commit to memory are scriptural.

The first hymn in the Brethren Hymnal starts out like this:

Jehovah God! thy gracious power
On every hand we see!

Only the child of God can sing this stanza because the world is in the dark. They do not see the goodness of God; He is only there to accuse or blame when things are not going his way. God's power is the greatest force in the universe. But His Gracious power cannot be explained by any unbeliever, and by very few that believe. The Grace of God can be defined, but hardly explained. Only the one that the Lord has touched and saved can begin to convey even a stammering understanding of God's gracious power. Yet to us it is everywhere.

From morn till noon, till latest eve,
The hand of God we see.
And all the blessings we receive,
Ceaseless proceed from thee.

The child of God is truly blessed. He knows from where all things come. He knows that, though he does not deserve what he received, he continues to receive these things because of God's grace and love. When we were unbelievers we did not acknowledge God's part

in everything. We did not see the overall scheme of things and that God was behind it all. We thought that these things happened by accident. But when the light hit our eyes we were able to put it all together. God said, "I AM." Jesus said, "I AM." God is all encompassing: the self-existing ONE. His power on every hand we see. He has blessed us beyond all comprehension.

What need our little life,
Our human life, to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low
God hideth His intention.

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OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

Clean Hands
J. H. Moore

The law of Moses directed that those committing adultery should be stoned to death. One time a woman was caught in the act of committing this sin. By some of the scribes and Pharisees she was brought before the Savior and her sin reported. They knew what the law required, but they wanted to see what Jesus would do with the woman. This they did to tempt him.

He gave them plenty of time to think and then said: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (John 8:7). In other words, You can do as Moses directed, but the first stone must be cast by a man who has clean hands. Each man was left to settle the question for himself, and not one of the accusers would admit that his hands were clean enough to cast the first stone.

Among the Hindus there is a fable illustrating this lesson. A thief "was captured with stolen money in his hand and sentenced to die. The night before his execution he devised this novel plan for rescue: He called the jailer into his cell and said, 'Go tell the king that if I can come to him, I can tell him how to grow gold.' The news was carried to the king and he said, 'Let the culprit be brought before me.' When the thief entered the royal presence he produced a piece of gold and said, 'Your majesty, if this piece of gold be planted in the soil it will grow into a tree, every branch of which will be laden with gold as an orchard with fruit. But this golden seed must be planted by a hand

which has never been stained by a dishonest act. Of course, I am a thief and cannot plant this seed. My hand is not clean, so I pass it to your majesty.' The king looked at the gold for a moment, then he said, 'I would plant it if I could, but alas! my hand is not clean; I will pass it to my prime minister.' The prime minister's hand was not clean, and he passed it on to another. Thus the golden seed went from hand to hand. Then the thief said, 'Your majesty, if no man's hand is clean, why should I alone die for the crime?' 'You are right,' said the king. If you are to die then I must die also.'"

All around us are people who make it their business to pass judgment on those who make mistakes, while they themselves have unclean hands. We sometimes see this in council meetings. Members, with hands not wholly clean, persist in having others set right. They plead for a pure church and an upright membership, while their own hands are stained. It is proper to have those who sin to repent and be set right before the church and the community, but how becoming it would seem if those who lead out in a move of this sort would first wash their own hands! And until they can do this, let them not cast the first stone, nor be too forward about planting the golden seed that produces the golden fruit. Even the sinner admires clean hands, and God demands them. Only clean hands will be permitted to receive the clear title to mansions in the skies.

NEWS ITEMS

1997 INDIANA-MICHIGAN DIRECTORY

The new 1997 Indiana-Michigan Directory of the Brethren of the Old German Baptist Church will be available about the middle of November, the Lord willing. The standard book size will be \$7.00 each, and a new pocket, purse size will be available for \$3.50 each. If purchased as a set (one of each) the price is \$10.00. All prices are postpaid. These directories may be purchased at stores operated by Brethren, or ordered direct from the address below. Send all orders to:

Indiana Directory Committee
P.O. Box 97
North Manchester, IN 46962-0097.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1996

Dec. 1 - Jesus Appears To His Disciples And Thomas - John 20:19-31.

1. Did the disciples need to see the scarred hands and side of Jesus before they recognized Him?
2. Jesus breathed on the disciples and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." Explain this receiving in comparison to the "filling" in Acts 2.

Dec. 8 - "Come And Dine" - John 21:1-14.

1. Why do you think Peter decided to go fishing?
2. How was John able to recognize Jesus when the other disciples had not?

Dec. 15 - "Feed My Sheep" - John 21:15-25.

1. What was the purpose of Jesus repeating three times His question to Peter?
2. Why was Peter concerned about what John was supposed to do?

Dec. 22 - The Birth Of Christ - Luke 2:1-20.

1. How did the Roman Emperor participate in God's plan for the world?
2. According to the words of the angel, For whom did Jesus come to earth?

Dec. 29 - The Ascension of Jesus - Acts 1:1-14.

1. For what purpose did Jesus stay on earth forty days after His Resurrection?
2. What kingdom were the disciples referring to when they asked Jesus, "Wilt thou at this time restore again the Kingdom to Israel?"

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
FOR DECEMBER 1996**

Dec. 1. - Fellowship - Gen. 5:24, 6:8-9, Ps. 73:23-28, Matt. 18:19-20, Luke 24:15-32,
I John 1:3-10, John 15:4-10.

1. How can we walk with God today like Enoch and Noah?
2. What provisions allow us to "Draw near to God?"

Dec. 8 - Appearances - I Sam. 16:4-7, Matt. 6:1-5, 16-18, Luke 20:46-47,
II Cor. 5:12, 10:7.

1. In what ways can appearance be deceiving?
2. Why is it so important for our actions to coincide with our outward appearance?

Dec. 15 - Disfigurement - Prov. 21:29-31, Isa. 3:9-24, II Pet. 1:3-4, Rev. 13:16-17,
19:20.

1. What does our countenance tell others about us?
2. How could we become spiritually disfigured?

Dec. 22 - The Birth of Christ - Luke 1:1-33.

1. List the similarities/differences of Gabriel's appearance to Zacharias and his appearance to Mary.
2. Compare Gabriel's prophetic description of Jesus' life with his prophetic description of John The Baptist's life.

Dec. 29 - The Grace of God - Ps. 84:1-12, Acts 11:21-24, I Cor. 3:10-14, 15:9-10,
II Cor. 1:12, I Pet. 5:5-11.

1. What/Where would we be without the grace of God?
2. Explain the relationship of humility and grace.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 23

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

JESUS CALLS US, O'ER THE TUMULT

Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult
Of our life's wild, restless sea,
Day by day His sweet voice soundeth,
Saying, "Christian, follow Me."

Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, "Christian, love Me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still He calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love Me more than these."

Jesus calls us, by Thy mercies,
Saviour, may we hear Thy call,
Give our hearts to Thine obedience,
Serve and love Thee best of all.

-Cecil F. Alexander

A FIREBRAND

Please read Zechariah 3.

Zechariah presents a picture of Joshua, the High Priest, that can be instructional for us. There are lessons that we can glean from this picture.

Joshua is pictured as one rescued from the fire of destruction. He had not been far from burning with the rest of the wood with which he had been associated. He was plucked from the fire. He could have totally ignited very soon, but he was pulled from the fire for a purpose. He would spread a different fire.

Before he was qualified to spread the fire to others, he was in need of being cleansed. His garments were filthy. They had been tainted with the sin's smoke and ash. While his garments were spotted he was not fit to go forth, so he needed a change of clothes. This he received as the old clothes were taken from him and were replaced by new, pure clothes. These godly garments of righteousness qualified him for God's service.

In the beginning, Joshua was at the crossroads of decision. He had an angel on one side counseling him to take the right course. On the other side, Satan whispered that he should follow an altogether different course. Satan would whisper to him as he had to Eve in the Garden of Eden. He was seeking to raise doubts about God and His word and way within Joshua. He had succeeded with Eve as she depended upon her human ability to reason and her emotions. Satan comes to each of us at a similar crossroads of decision. He would cause us to question God, the Bible and the Church. He would prefer that we would remain in the fire of destruction. He is not bound by

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any rules of morality, so he may lie to us to persuade us to follow his course.

On the other side the angel of the Lord will attempt to persuade us to turn toward God. We often make this a harder decision than it ought to be. Our natural emotions crave the things that Satan would represent that he can give us, so we halt between two opinions. If we were to approach this decision with logic and righteousness in mind, it would be a very easy decision. By nature we are disposed to do Satan's bidding.

After Joshua's garments were changed he was given a promise. The promise was conditioned on his willingness to follow the ways of the Lord. If he did, he would be able to judge within the Lord's house, he would be able to keep the courts of the Lord and he would be able to walk among His people. We may not fully understand all that is entailed in these promises, but we do know that since they came from God, they are special and desirable.

Many would like to obtain the glory involved in these promises, but unfortunately they do want to yield their own ideas. They want to rule but can not for they do not have the necessary preparation in the ways that the Master has set before them. There may be disappointment later when they think they should be honored as the defenders of the Lord and His Word, but they find instead that He will reject them. They still have on their filthy garments. They still have the smell of the fire on them: Instead of being able to spread the Gospel fire they have failed to avail themselves of its glorious provisions.

Joshua is a picture of individuals who must make that eternal decision. Each must decide either to listen to Satan's unholy pleadings, or to accept the offer of eternal life. Each who accepts God's offer must be willing to change clothing. The inner cleansing should be accompanied by an outer change of garments to show there has been a change made in that life.

When the firebrand has been plucked from the fires of destruction and given new clean clothes, he is fitted to become God's firebrand. God will throw him where He will, so he can accomplish the most good for His cause. He wants him to spread the Gospel through a change in his lifestyle, attitudes and appearance. Instead of burning within the fire of destruction, he can cause fires of contrition and submission.

It does not take much to start a fire. A match can begin a fire that destroys thousands of acres of forest. A flying ember can ignite a wood shake shingle roof and destroy a home. God's desire for His firebrands are that they will do what they are capable of doing. Each

doing his part in obedience and submissiveness, will cause the glow of Gospel fires to be seen and felt wherever the firebrand goes and whatever he does.

Are you a firebrand for Christ?

M.C.Cook

BEING SQUARE AND NOT CHICKEN

Being square and not chicken, "What does that mean?" you might ask. Words often have different meanings. One definition for square is: a plane figure having four equal sides; but, the definition we would like to think of is this one: just, fair, honest, not conversant (familiar or acquainted) with current fads or styles, unyielding, firm, old-fashioned, unsophisticated, conservative.

When we think of chicken - we think of a farm bird, but we would like to think of this definition also: timid or cowardly, to lose courage. Acts, chapters 6 and 7, gives the account of a man who was "square and not chicken." His name was Stephen.

Stephen was brought before the council. There they set up false witnesses against him. He told them the truth, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did so do ye." (Acts 7:51) Stephen told them the truth and the truth hurt. They were cut to the heart and gnashed on him with their teeth. They cast him out of the city and stoned him to death. He could have turned "chicken" (cowardly or lost courage) and would not have been gnashed on with teeth and stoned. Stephen stayed fore-square upon the true gospel of Jesus Christ, unyielding to the pressure around him. What if - when they started stoning him, Stephen would have said, "Wait a minute, I'm sorry I offended you, I really was a little hard on you, Please forgive me!" We would say that he would have been a real chicken or coward. What about us? When the opportunity comes our way to witness for Christ, or point out sin as Stephen did, would we be gnashed on or stoned? No, a lot less than that happens to us, and yet, it seems we are afraid to stand for the right.

The account of John the Baptist's death tells us that he was "square and not chicken" in Mark 6:16-29. Verse 20 states that he was a just and holy man. John told Herod, "It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife" (Mark 6:18) and it cost John his head! John could have turned chicken and said, "Well, you ARE the king, God is a God of love, surely God will overlook this sin. He understands, besides I'm sure if we look hard enough we can find an exception clause somewhere in the scripture!" John stood perfectly "square." He was full of the Holy Ghost; willing to die, rather than deny the truth.

Noah was a real "square" in his day. In Genesis 6:5 it is stated, "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Even though Noah lived in a very wicked day, he did not yield to the evil around him. "But, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." (Genesis 6:8) Verse 9 states: "Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations and Noah walked with God." God told Noah to build an ark, so that's what he did - on dry land! Can you picture Noah and his sons - sawing, hammering, and working on this big boat while the wicked men watched them, laughing, making jokes, and calling them fools for doing what they were instructed by God to do? Noah did not turn "chicken." What about us when God instructs us to do something as recorded in II Cor. 6:17, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." It's much easier to follow the crowd, do what they do, go where they go, do your own thing and not get too excited about obeying God. They thought Noah was a fool until they saw all the animals and Noah's family go inside and God shut the door. When it started raining, there were eight "squares" SAFE in the ark, while there was a multitude of "chickens" on the outside of the ark - wishing they were "square" and on the inside!

There are many others in the Bible who were "square and not chicken." We can look at David and the slaying of the giant Philistine, Goliath. (I Sam. 17); the three Hebrew children being cast into the fiery furnace (Daniel 3); or Daniel in the lions' den (Daniel 6). These were not afraid to stand for God and give their very life if need be. To be on God's side was not very popular in their day and neither is it for us today!

A young man I worked with several years ago comes to my mind often. When he first started to work where I did, he was a nice, Christian, young man. As time went on he became friends with the wrong crowd. First, he started laughing along with the dirty jokes; then he started telling them himself. Soon he began smoking (I can remember seeing him - his eyes were red and watering - but he continued smoking - to be with the crowd) and talking, doing, and eventually going where the world did. When Friday evening, quitting time came, he went with his new "friends" to the bar for a couple drinks, too. Instead of staying "square" he turned "chicken."

"...he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved!" (Matthew 10:22b.)

Brother David Aungst

SHOULD I WRITE? YES, BUT...

Prov. 24:33-34, "Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man."

Luke 8:14, "And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection."

I should write but others are better at writing than I. If I could just preach from the pulpit or write on paper the way I preach when lying awake in the middle of the night.

Then I should write now, but those leaves that were so beautiful a few days ago are now on the ground, and need to be raked up and disposed of. And, oh yes, there is a lot of dead wood that needs to be cut, and put in the basement to burn. The garden needs a little work yet. Probably the lawn should be mowed once more.

I must read the newspaper to keep up with what is going on in the world. Right now, just after taking time to eat, sit in my easy chair, to read, I must keep up with my daily Bible reading, but I am getting very sleepy. ZZZZZ.

Well, that was a nice nap, now there are a few things I must do. Well maybe tomorrow.

Ephesians 5:14-16, "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Colossians 4:2-5, "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."

May God bless you all richly.

Brother William Carpenter

QUARRELSOME PEOPLE

"I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord." Philippians 4:2.

It is a sad fact that Euodias and Syntyche achieved fame because they argued with one another. From the context of Philippians 4, it is certain that they were leaders in the church at Philippi, and though they were prominent, they had a difference of opinion. There have been many articles written in these pages recently concerning being of one mind, Christian harmony, working together and the like. I believe that the church is at a crossroads: do we continue on as we

have for centuries, or do we change to accommodate modern thought and ideas?

Verse five states, "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." Moderation here does not have anything to do with using alcohol, it means reasonableness, graciousness or yielding to the will of another. Paul was trying to say that the church's ability to work together as a unit should be renowned in all the world. We must be careful here, because the tendency is to drift from the Word of God for the sake of unity, and we cannot do that. We must lift up the standard so others may see and live.

There are many lessons to be found in Philippians 4:2. It is sad that oftentimes leaders of the church do not agree with each other. We read how Paul and Barnabas fell out. Yet their disunity was not allowed to linger and fester. They separated without any hard feelings, and the Lord's work continued. They did not fight and argue endlessly, but made an end to it. This must be done. First, we must be true to the scriptures, taught by the Holy Spirit of God. Second, we must deal with disunity as a plague that will destroy the church if it is not soon dealt with.

The fact is we do not always agree. We must learn the difference between opinions that we have and Biblical, unalterable fact. People, today, look other places than to Jesus. Only on Jesus should our vision be centered. Hebrews 12:2 says, "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith," and verse 3 continues the thought by saying, "For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

Jesus, Thy blessings are not few,
Nor is thy Gospel weak;
Thy grace can melt the stubborn Jew,
And bow the haughty Greek.

Come, all ye wretched sinners, come,
He'll form your souls anew;
His gospel and his heart have room
For rebels such as you.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOUTH

Jerusalem 3000

These are interesting times in Israel. As we look forward to a trip there in 1997, we closely watch the happenings. The Jews and

Muslims certainly are not at peace. The re-erecting of fences between major sections of the City of Jerusalem and the erecting of signs saying, "Jews Not Welcome", which really are not just pieces of wood with writing on them, but are in reality "signs of the times."

This year and in 1997, Israel is celebrating their love affair with beautiful Jerusalem that has spanned 3000 years. Since the first of David's warriors went over the walls of the Jebusite fortress in 1000 BC, Jerusalem has endured as the religious and political capital of the Jews. On property purchased by David from Araunah the Jebusite (see II Samuel 24:18-25), her great temples have stood with honor. Within and around these ancient city walls her sons and daughters were born and celebrated. Even during the debilitating periods when the Jews were swept off the land by the tyrants of the time, far-off Jerusalem was to hold the hearts of her children, the wandering Jews.

With these historical facts in view, we need to remind ourselves once again that the Muslim claims on Jerusalem did not commence until the seventh century AD. The Jewish people occupied the city of Jerusalem for about sixteen hundred years before Islam was established there.

Since 1967, when Israel captured the city, Jerusalem has been called the "occupied territory." The city has been fought over perhaps more than any other city in the world. When Jerusalem was conquered in battle, the victors held it until they were displaced by someone else, who had more strength and will in battle to possess the place.

Scripture is replete with references about a time when the nations will be reconciled to God. Controversy over Jerusalem will be a thing of the past. Jerusalem of the future will be tranquil, peaceful and the focal point of the ruler of the earth. Jesus Christ will dwell there once again.

We, too, will dwell there. There shall be no more utter destruction. Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited. (Zech. 14:11) We can hold to the promise that "weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." We can turn our tear-stained faces to the horizon, morning is coming. The King is coming, for the Christian. Keep your eye on Israel. Keep your eye on Jerusalem. She awaits us and her King.

Bro. Len Wertz

THE VINE OF SODOM

Deuteronomy 32:32-33, "For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter: Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps."

Deuteronomy 32:36-37, "For the LORD shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left. And he shall say, Where are their gods, their rock in whom they trusted,...?"

The sin of Sodom appears to be growing in acceptance within the leadership of the earthly church in spite of the danger of AIDS. However, this is only a branch of a much larger problem within the established church.

In the New Testament, grapes and wine are symbols for the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. A large portion of the modern church has rejected this blood for the salvation of sin and replaced it with grapes of gall, the human works of man. Because of this their clusters are bitter. They deny that the Bible is the infallible Word of God. They despise the King James Version. A minister in what could be called our mother church has written a book entitled, **THE ULTIMATE HERESY: THE DOCTRINE OF BIBLICAL INERRANCY**. The back page of the book states, "The doctrine that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God is the worst heresy that the Church has ever faced, and this book's sole purpose is to move Christians to eliminate that doctrine."

Their wine is the poison of dragons. They re-interpret the truths that have been accepted down through the centuries and introduce new ones. Recently, we received a mailing, from a computer enthusiast, that supposedly proved that repentance is not a Scriptural term. To prove his point he went back to the original Greek. While we accept the fact of the original Greek language and believe it is sometimes helpful to refer to such references as Strong's Greek and Hebrew dictionaries, we also are aware of the fact that those who supposedly are learned in the Greek do not always agree on what the Greek says or means. Two issues pertinent to this discussion are the prayer veil (or covering) and women preachers.

Their wine is also the cruel venom of asps. They destroy the assurance given to true believers. Recently a pastor of a church made the following statement. "If Jesus Christ were alive today, I'm certain he'd be using every form of entertainment that's out there to make God relevant and practical in people's lives." They reject the Christ of the Bible who said in Revelation 1:18, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys to hell and of death."

Today the majority seem to see God as merely a God of love and the Lord Jesus Christ as a meek, helpless servant. The book of Jude describes those whose vine is the wine of Sodom and God's response to them. Jude verses 12-15, "These are spots in your feasts of

charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

A large portion of the earthly church has lost its power by accepting the vine of Sodom and rejecting the true vine. In John 15:1 the Lord Jesus Christ says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." The false gods of the vine of Sodom will be of no help in the time of need. The false rock of the vine of Sodom will not stand the storms of life and bring true salvation.

May our desire be to be a branch of the true vine and reject the vine of Sodom. Let us hold fast to the Word of God and follow all of its truth, teachings and precepts.

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THE BRETHREN HYMNAL

Hymn #2

HOLY AND REVEREND

"Holy and reverend is his name." Psalm 111:9

It has been my desire for quite a while to bring forth a series of articles from the Brethren Hymnal with the idea of fortifying the doctrines long taught by the Brethren. We wish to, as is always our goal, to be Biblical, as we believe this blessed old hymn book to be Biblical. As we page through it, let us be reminded of the many blessings that are ours as the children of God.

I own several copies of the small Brethren Hymn Book, the same volume except without the musical notes. It is valuable as a book of poetry, and it is easy to carry that way. Many churches have added other hymnals to their collection, but it is still a blessing to sing from the old black book. May it ever be so.

Holy and reverend is the name of our eternal king. Isaiah 6:3 says, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." The unbeliever does not see it. The soul immersed in the vain things of this life does not see it. It remains for the saint of God to not

only see it, but proclaim it. It has often been said that when a person is first converted the world looks entirely different from what it did before God appeared in their lives. If we are truly being used of God and are sincere children of His, our perception of this hymn will increase year by year.

With sacred awe pronounce His name. There is much controversy concerning what the name of God is. A local cult hereabouts says "Yahweh" is the only name God hears. We believe that God only hears from a penitent heart, regardless of the name used. Our God is Holy. We are obliged to speak His Name in a holy way. This writer has always used the name "God" or "Jehovah God" and has never felt condemned.

This wonderful hymn ends with a prayer.

Thou, holy God, preserve my soul,
From all pollution free;
The pure in heart are thy delight,
And thy face shall see.

Only the pure in heart shall see God. God will only hear from a soul that seeks after His righteousness.

Today the "Christian" world seeks to devalue the Holiness of God. They say that God is a Father or a Mother. They say God will accept anyone regardless of their value system or sexual orientation. God accepts only righteousness. If we say anything else we demean Him. We cannot approach Him without the Blood of Christ, which was shed to accomplish our salvation. We have no righteousness of our own acceptable to God.

We cannot ascribe the name "Reverend" to anyone but God. Only God is to be revered. Man did not earn this title, nor does he deserve it. Only the supreme, Majestic Godhead is deserving of our praise and worship. May God help us to walk so as to see Him someday.

Psalms 17:15, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 1, 1936

UNSAFE AUTHORITY

L. W. Beery

After noting the authority back of the New Testament teachings as given to us by the apostles, naturally serious thinking people wonder as to the authority back of the "transition" which has taken place so

noticeably in professing Christendom of late years. With a little sound consideration one can easily determine as to the authority back of the unscriptural innovations and departures from the faith which have been fostered among professing Christian people.

There is no question but that Christ intended His teachings as recorded by the apostles to endure throughout the ages until his return to earth again. His parting commission to the apostles clearly indicates this. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:19-20.) It is definitely given in this reference that the things that Jesus taught His disciples were to be taught and observed "even unto the end of the world."

The passing of time and changes that take place among men on the earth do not change the inspired word that is given us in the New Testament. It is this word that shall last throughout the ages and appear before men on the day of judgment there to condemn or exonerate all who face it. Jesus said, "The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him (the man that rejects) in the last day." Jesus and His plan of salvation for men in the dispensation does not change. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Heb. 13:8.) Certainly then, from this consideration, the authority of Christ is not back of these changes which so flagrantly violate New Testament teachings.

There was evidently a "transition" in the Galatian churches in the time of Paul for in writing to them he states, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel; which is not another but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ." (Gal. 1:6-7.) Paul and his helpers had preached the true gospel to the Galatians and they had accepted it but from the language that Paul uses in writing to them they had turned aside to something else. There were those that "troubled them" and endeavored to "pervert" the gospel of Christ which they had been taught. This new gospel, Paul intimates, was simply the ideas and theories of men and had no higher origin or authority.

It is evident that the same condition exists today that did in the time of Paul. This new gospel which has resulted in the "transition" in the church is simply some theories that men have concocted and have substituted for what the gospel teaches. The authority back of the transition then, is "man," and all those who accept these theories in preference to gospel teachings are making "man" their god.

Regarding these who cause trouble in the church by endeavoring to pervert the gospel, Paul says this: "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." (Gal. 1:8.) In the next verse he repeats the statement. This ought to be sufficient warning to all serious minded folks. There is however, a more solemn warning given to all who would pervert the gospel of Christ. "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." (Rev. 22:18-19.)

What an awful thing it will be on the day of judgement to be responsible for these unscriptural practices that have been set up in the churches in place of what the gospel teaches. "For me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

Grandfather

J. H. Moore

Grandfather had seen better days. I mean the one to whom we refer at this time. He was once a strong young man, full of life and with bright prospects before him. He took to himself the maid whose heart and hand he had won. They were poor, but they were happy. They had few troubles and dreamed of none. Life with them was full of sunshine and the outlook hopeful. They looked forward to the time when they could possess a comfortable home and have about them plenty on which to live, and also a place where they could spend the declining years of life.

Their first house was small, consisting of but one room. And yet it was large enough for the young father, mother and two little girls. As the years went by other rooms were added, and then there were more children. Trees were planted, and in time the buildings, the orchard and shade trees gave the little knoll, by the side of the country road, a most charming appearance. The fond parents did not neglect their religion while accumulating wealth, but they did, in a measure, neglect the best interests of their children. One by one their sons and daughters were sent off to school. They did not select schools particularly favored with religious environments. The children were well educated, and thus fitted for society and business, but not for the Lord's house. The soul culture had been neglected, and not one of them was a member of the church. Considerable property passed

into their hands, and, so far as the world was concerned, they were in excellent circumstances.

There came a change. The father and mother grew old. Their eyes grew dim and their strength failed them. The home farm was turned over to a son-in-law, and the parents were to be contented with a home with their daughter. The daughter, of course, was kind, and so were all the grandchildren. But the home was not as in days of yore. It ceased to be a lodging place for the Brethren who chanced to visit the locality. There was a time when this good man and wife could count on entertaining all the ministers who visited their church. Their roof had sheltered some of the most gifted preachers in the Fraternity. But that had come to an end. The daughter and her family moved in fashionable society, and by this the aged father and mother were in a measure cut off from the society of the church. They often wept. They had hoped that their last years might be their most enjoyable ones. But such was not the case. They saw their mistake. They had raised their children for the world, and not for the church. It was too late to make amends. They could only weep and wait for the boatman to come and row them across the chilly waters to the other shore.

By and by a minister was sent for. The neighbors gathered. There was to be a funeral. The boatman has come for grandmother. It seemed that loving hands could not do enough for the dead mother. No expense was spared. The coffin was fine. The hearse was the best to be had. The casket was covered with costly flowers. Grandmother never had so much respect shown her. The minister grew eloquent, the sons and daughters wept. The grandchildren cried, and even the neighbors shed tears. All this was for the dead. The poor woman was cold in death, and could not realize what was being done for her. The aged husband wept and sobbed. He said nothing, but he thought, "If only half this affection had been bestowed upon mother while living, how pleasant life would have been for her!" To the angels it probably looked like mockery.

Grandfather was left alone. Scores reached for his hand and said words that were meant to be consoling. He leaned on the arm of a daughter as he looked down into the cold grave; then was gently led away. For a few days each one of the family acted as an angel of love. No grandfather was ever treated more kindly. Time, however, moved them all farther away from the sad incident, and inside of a few months the scenes at the funeral and grave seemed to have been forgotten. The gray-headed father sank into despondency. No one appeared to take any special interest in him. Not only so, but he

seemed to be in the way. His room was wanted for another purpose. The family desired to entertain more, but grandfather was in the way. No wonder the good old man was sad! His last days were full of sorrow. He lived only because he had to. He hoped for relief when he reached the other shore, and anxiously he wondered when the boatman would come for him!

SMILE

What would this day be like if everyone we met would have a lovely smile? We all know a smile costs nothing but gives much to those who receive. They are surely blessed by it. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. No one is so rich he can get along without it. It creates happiness in every place. Many homes are blessed when the family uses it. It is so much help in business. Many friends are gained by it. It is rest to the weary, cheer to those who are discouraged and sad. It helps in all kinds of trouble. There is no price for it. It cannot be bought. You cannot even borrow or steal it, for it is of no value to anyone until you receive it. Let us not be so tired and weary, we can not give a smile. Let us all give a smile to everyone we meet. Then wait to see what happens.

Sister E. M. Alltus

NEWS ITEM

Notice

Renewal time is upon us again. Without the faithful work of our agents and correspondents, it would be impossible to keep track of renewals. This year as we implement the new addressing system mandated by the United States Postal Service, we need to ask an even greater favor of those who gather the subscriptions. We would appreciate, where known, the full nine digit zip code for each address. This will facilitate the handling of the Bible Monitor by our mailing company.

Thank you for your cooperation in advance.

The Editor

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXIV

DECEMBER 15, 1996

NO. 24

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LIVING FOR JESUS

Living for Jesus a life that is true,
Striving to please Him in all that I do,
Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free,
This is the pathway of blessing for me.

Living for Jesus who died in my place,
Bearing on Calv'ry my sin and disgrace,
Such love constrains me to answer His call,
Follow His leading and give Him my all.

Living for Jesus wherever I am,
Doing each duty in His Holy Name,
Willing to suffer affliction or loss,
Deeming each trial a part of my cross.

Living for Jesus thro' earth's little while,
My dearest treasure, the light of His smile,
Seeking the lost ones He died to redeem,
Bringing the weary to find rest in Him.

-T. O. Chisholm

LEFT-OVERS AND HAND-ME-DOWNS

Living amongst people devoted to materialism can be a real challenge to a Christian. People want the latest conveniences and gadgets, which are expensive, bringing greater debt and dissatisfaction. The desire for these playthings is produced either through creative advertising or the pride that wants to keep-up-with or get-ahead-of others. Accompanying this desire for these gadgets is a disdain for the frugal ways of past generations.

Those who lived in simpler times often had to make do with a lot less than what we think is necessary these days. Looking back, we often wonder if they did not have a greater contentment than what we have with all we do have. Our wants have far outstripped our needs. Frugality of the past made them thankful for their left-overs and hand-me-downs. Today we would be insulted if we were required to use up, wear out, eat up all we had before we could have any more. They could not afford to waste their resources. They were thankful for what they did have.

They were willing to eat left-over food. Sometimes, food, the second time around, actually is better than it was the first time around. This is especially true of soups, which blend together more fully the longer they are prepared. They were not ashamed to wear previously worn clothes. Patches and safety pins were no shame as long as their clothes were as clean as possible. Today someone who wears clothes patched and made-over is looked down upon. In fact, people who wear clothes a little out of date are thought strange. Frugality would be a good addition to the American way of life.

Frugality has always been one of the traits of the Brethren.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

DECEMBER 15, 1996

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Frugality was practiced not to accumulate wealth and property. While the Brethren often were able to accumulate substantial bank accounts, that was not their primary goal in the handling of their finances. Their goal was to honor their Lord and Master through the right use of their financial resources. Feeling they were pilgrims and strangers in this world, they did not want to be too attached to it. By using their money sparingly and wisely, they were investing in those things that were necessary. That which was superfluous they did not want to collect. They felt the luxuries and unnecessary things that they could have accumulated would have hindered their journey through this world. They would have been tempted to give more effort and honor to the things that they might collect rather than serving God as they should.

The Brethren were not so "cheap" that they did not appreciate quality. They understood quality. They knew a quality item might cost more at the beginning but that it would outlast an inferior item. They could save money and have better items by buying quality items. They knew the difference between frugal and "cheap".

Serving God by not wasting His resources meant they did not need the latest styles or gadgets. They were content with the necessities. Their frugality gave them resources they could share with others who were less fortunate than themselves. They could support the work of the Church. Their simple lifestyles not only were a help to their own Spiritual lives and provided for the Church's expenses and expansion, but they also were good for the surrounding community. Their simple lives set an example before those who could do better in their worship of God. Their thrifty ways saved the natural and financial resources of the community. They were a healthier and happier people in the midst of people who did not use discernment in their use of the present world. They fulfilled the Scriptural admonition to help others. They could give not only monetarily, but also Spiritually.

These considerations of the godly and frugal use of wealth and possessions are especially timely during this Christmas season. At this season, it is especially easy to lose sight of the purpose of our possessions. The constant merchandising of products makes it easy to be mesmerized and drawn into the worldly spirit of the season.

The connection between Christmas as we know it today is very slender with the event that it supposedly commemorates. The accumulating of the latest and richest gifts is not a celebration of the best Gift of all. No way can our giving duplicate God's giving. He gave so much more and at a so much greater cost. If we can do some good at this season (or anytime) we should use our resources

in that way. As Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." We need to be frugal in the use of our resources at this season, so they can be put to a better use.

During this Christmas season do you have your priorities in line? Will you be frugal or wasteful? Will you honor God?

M.C.Cook

ESPECIALLY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE SHE KNEW HE WAS RIGHT

She knew he was right,
When recalling that night
That the Spirit descended on her

What more could have been
And delivered to men
Than him conceived on the earth

The time then grew long
And short grew her song
As news spread concerning a birth

Out of wedlock no less
Seemed to curse more than bless
As the man considered her worth

Then the Angel appeared
And spoke "Joseph draw near"
"And behold the chosen of God"

Go take her to wife
For she'll bring forth the life
That will save your people from sin

Then he took her to him
And their new life began
Though with child, still a virgin till birth

And Joseph a just man
Heeded God's own command
And stood by her though the better became worse

A decree from the King
Contained orders to bring
Each man's family to the town of his birth

So he took the young lass
Upon the back of an ass
And trekked over mountainous terrain

Then the search about town
For a place to lie down
Finally, stabled, no room in the Inn

One moment t'was pain
And again and again
Until at last the miracle came forth

First silence then a cry
As a breath he did try
And life poured into his small frame

They wrapped him all up
With a pull and a tuck
As he wiggled and wiggled again

Joseph knew at that time
As thoughts raced through his mind
It was worth any suffering sustained

He beheld both his feet
As his hands oh so sweet
And pondered, would they ever feel pain

But her heart raced with might
And her visage blanched white
As a vision took shape in her mind

On those little pink hands
And those little pink feet
Blood Stains! caused by sin from our kind

But as she looked on his face
And saw love's unending grace
Had met humanity's need in the flesh

She remembered the word
Of the Angel she'd heard
"Mary among women thou art blessed"

And she knew he was right
When recalling that night
That the spirit descended on her

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GOD'S GIFT TO HIS SON

John 17:6, "I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word."

We are again in the season when individuals will be giving gifts to one another. Someone has wisely said that Christmas is supposed to be a celebration of the birth of Christ yet everyone gets a gift except Him. The fact that this time of year is largely a commercial enterprise mixed in with licentious activities is reason enough for some Christians to remove themselves from participating in the celebration of the holiday.

Some refuse to have part for a more basic reason. According to THE LAYMAN'S BIBLE ENCYCLOPEDIA the word Christmas is derived from the medieval "CHRISTES MASSE" meaning the mass of Christ. Some more interesting facts given are that the birth of Christ was not an object of celebration until the fourth century. As it was impossible to fix the date of the nativity, it was celebrated on the same day as the pagan Mithraic rites of the birth of the Sun and at the close of the Roman festival called the Saturnalia, held in mid-December. As is the case with the date, most of the customs associated with Christmas were not originally Christian. The merry-making, the feasting, the candles, and the giving of gifts have their origin in the Roman Saturnalia. The Christmas tree did not come into wide usage until the 18th century. We, personally, believe that the origin of the Christmas Tree can be found in Jeremiah 10:1-5, where God says it is "the way of the heathen." An interesting historical fact from another source is that at the early part of our American history the celebration of Christmas was against the law.

Our introductory verse concerns a time when God the Father gave a gift to His Son. It was not at the time of His birth but at the

beginning of His ministry. We believe the gift includes more than the original apostles but includes all those who are born again.

Christ says that the Father gave the men to Him from out of the world. Today many want to be recognized as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ but they want to keep the trappings, glitter and glamour of the world also. Such individuals resemble the gaudy wrapping that Christmas gifts usually come in, only to be crunched up and thrown into the trash or burned, usually.

The phrase "thine they were" is a very interesting one. We do not believe this refers to when they were a part of the world. The popular teaching that all individuals are sons (or daughters) of God is not supported by Holy Scripture. God never declared that the pagan individuals of the Old Testament era were His children but directed that they should be destroyed at various times. God's judgment, not His mercy, rests upon the unsaved world that rejects His gift of the Lord Jesus Christ. The original twelve disciples were all Jews. We believe they had accepted the Jewish religion and looked forward to the Messiah. Therefore, this phrase can only be applied to the original apostles.

Christ then makes the declaration of God's gift to His Son, "and thou gavest them me." In Isaiah 43:11 God the Father proclaimed, "I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior." Now the Father will openly share his glory, honour and worship with God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. This was a revealed gift, not a gift established at this point in time. For in John 17:5 we read, "And now, O Father glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

Contrary to some teaching, this gift of the Father to the Son was not without the consent of those given. For in verse 8 we read, "For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me." Three acts of free will, receiving, knowing (making it a part of their knowledge of truth), and believing. The same three steps of free will we must assent.

We, as a gift of God to His Son, are included in verse 10. "And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them." Are you a gift of God to His Son? If not, accept the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary.

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OPEN TO ME

"I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night." Song of Solomon 5:2.

"For the love of Christ constraineth us;..." II Corinthians 5:14.

What a force love is! There is no force greater. Yet today many equate the love of God with comfort and ease. Of all the wonderful adjectives we can attach to the word love we must include those that indicate love to be an irresistible force, a controlling force, a drive, to restrain, to repress, to bind or confine. Love does all these things: the love of God especially.

In the first verse of our lesson, the object of love was awakened from sleep. She was disturbed: wrenched out of a peaceful state. We have read the testimonies of many whom God has touched. Some say that God has brought a peace to them, and this is true. There is nothing like the Peace of God. Yet, others have said that God forced them out of their complacency, apathy and laziness. They have been on the move ever since.

There is nothing like God's love to change a person. Paul's conversion was dramatic in the change that it caused. When the Doctors Barnard and DeBaakey began to do heart transplants in the late 1960's there was no operation more drastic and more devastating to the human body. Yet the change God affects on our heart is no less drastic spiritually. Our consciousness is totally changed.

Just as the bridegroom knocks on the door of his beloved, so does Christ knock on the door of our heart. Some will call down to Him and say, "Leave me alone! I do not want to be disturbed!" There is a supreme effort involved in getting up and answering the door: **AND OUR LIFE IS NEVER THE SAME AFTERWARDS.** He demands an entrance into our heart and life. We cannot treat this call lightly.

Much has been written of Mahatma Gandhi. Many have compared him to Jesus Christ. Though he was merely a man, the love that he had for the people of India eventually caused that land to become independent and free. This is what the love of one man can do. How much more perfect is the love of God, and how much more can this love do?

Could we with ink the ocean fill
And were the sky of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade:
To write the love of God above

Would drain the ocean dry,
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
If stretched from sky to sky.

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 15, 1936
THE RIVER OF TIME
Ida M. Helm

Away back in Eden the river of time had its source. Even there was the deceitful undercurrent to draw men down and Adam and Eve went down at the swish of the Serpent's deceit, and e'er long their son, Abel, lay cold in death, slain by his brother, Cain. Then Adam and Eve knew what physical death was like, they knew God meant when He said, that to disobey Him is sin, and that sin will surely bring destruction.

It drove them from the beautiful garden of Eden, now it robbed them of their first born son, the dutiful Abel.

God gave them a son, Seth instead of Abel who Cain slew. The years passed and the Godly sons of Seth kept themselves separate from the worldly children of Cain, they worshipped God, they called on the name of the Lord; to them by faith was the promise of a Savior given.

The years flowed on swiftly and finally the descendants of Seth, the sons of God saw the daughters of men - Cain - that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the Lord said, "My spirit will not always strive with man." (Gen. 6:2-3.)

The long suffering patience of God bore with them till the springs of the world became poisoned and foamed out fatal moral corruption, not only to a community but to a world. No doubt the sons of God and the daughters of men thought they were having a good time, but they trampled the religion of God under foot; the earth was filled with violence. There were men of renown in those days, remarkable men, strong men, but none of them were able to stop the violence, or head off the wave of crime.

Well they should have trembled when God said He would destroy man, but they only mocked and jeered, till God opened the flood gates of heaven and earth and deluged the world with a flood, and took all mankind away except eight righteous souls.

The channel of years was cleansed and man was given a new start. The rainbow, the sign of the covenant between God and Noah reminds us today that God is faithful to His word. He will never again destroy the world with a flood. The years passed and again the under-current of sin became rife in the world. The channel of years again became clogged with sin.

Men praised dumb idols and called on them and worshipped them, they became like the filthy gods they worshipped. God looked down on Egypt, the land where his people lived and saw the sins and oppression and heard the cry of his people, and in order to reveal the holiness, justice and power of God, also that the Egyptians might know Jehovah God and that He might visit judgment on the idol gods of Egypt He sent the ten plagues. Also that Israel might know Jehovah God.

He proved clearly that men might understand that the plagues were a manifestation of a conflict between the idols of Egypt and Jehovah God of Israel. Each plague was an attack on one of Egypt's gods that left Jehovah God the victor every time. God again gave His people a new start by bringing them into the Land of Promise and setting Himself up as King over them.

But alas! One channel cleansed, others sent out streams of poison again and again. God's children were caught by the under-current and God's all powerful arm rescued them by rising up judges to bring them back to Him. He gave them kings because they wanted to be like other people; He sent prophets to warn them of the penalty of disobedience; but they were an obstinate, headstrong people, and alas! brazen idolatry foamed out shame and disgrace till God in anger sent them into exile to be cured by having copious doses of idolatry dealt out to them.

The years passed and again God rescued them by bringing them back to the Land of Promise. But alas, the stream did not stay cleansed. Again and again God cleaned up His people and gave them a new start till finally Jesus, the promised Messiah of God, His only Son came from heaven to win men back to God. When He came He saw the people as sheep without a shepherd. "Then saith He unto His disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers into His harvest." (Matt. 9:37-38.)

True, they had the Scribes and Pharisees, but these were no true shepherds, but blind leaders of the blind. Jesus saw it as not the fault of the people but the trouble lay in their guides. Away back in the days of Jeremiah he tells us in the tenth chapter of the book he wrote,

"My God's tabernacle is spoiled, and all my cords are broken: my children are gone forth of me, and they are not; there is none to stretch forth my tent any more, and to set up my curtains. For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the Lord: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered." (Jer. 8:21-22.)

Unless a man is called of God he is useless in God's harvest field today. God's ministers must be filled with the Holy Ghost, they must know God's word and obey it and keep the old landmarks intact.

Nineteen centuries have rolled by since the Judean sun shed its morning beams over the empty tomb of the Lord and the angels proclaimed the glad tidings, "He is not here, but is risen." The Son is exalted, He is at the Father's right hand, He reigns "King of kings and Lord of lords." He is coming again. When He was here He said in the day of the coming of the Son of Man it shall be as it was in the days of Noah. Today the world is filled with violence as it was then. We have men of renown, great scientists, great statesmen, great politicians and yet every one of them are unable to quench the wave of crime that is sweeping this earth today.

We are facing a new year. No one but God knows what it shall bring to us, but God does know. Tremendous issues are at stake. It behooves every follower of Jesus Christ to be alert, active, working for Christ. The world is seething in unrest, man and women are rushing blindly to destruction. The springs of the year are foaming poison.

The principles of righteousness must be implanted in the rising generation if they would be able to breast the under-current of crime and wickedness that is seeking to drag them down. If we would understand the movements of men today there is no place half so good to go to find out as God's word. He has told what to expect in the latter days. One is, a falling away from God; another is Sunday desecration and neglecting the church.

Daily, hourly, invisible fingers are recording every act and thought and word of my life and yours for the book of remembrance that God keeps of each one of us. Will they bear the searchlight of eternal truth? If they will, what a glad thought, free from sin, bound with righteousness. If they will not, what a sad withering thought, free in respect of righteousness, chained with sin. Sin is a dreadful master.

We may think a thing is so small it does not matter much, and I desire it so much. What an awful mistake. No matter how small the wrong may be, it is sin; sin brings us under condemnation, and condemnation means eternal death. How much Jesus is expecting of

me and you during 1937? Will we disappoint Him? Will we prove the firmness of our Christian character by striving to create a pure and en-nobling atmosphere around us. Our lives are either marring or beautifying the souls of those around us.

ARE YOU A SAINT?

There are some who feel that no person is a saint. Because some believe that only certain holy people should be made saints, who can then intercede on the behalf of others, we turn away from the idea that we are saints.

One of the definitions of saints in the dictionary that we have is: Any baptized believer in Christ according to the New Testament.

So we look into the New Testament, but we also find the word, "saints," many times in the Old Testament, as well.

I Sam. 2:9, "He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail." Although "saints" is not used in this context see concerning "feet". Psalm 40:2, Isaiah 5:27, Ephesians 6:15.

In the prayer of Solomon at the dedication of the temple, II Chronicles 6:41 "Now therefore arise, O Lord God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O Lord God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness.

From here to Zechariah 14:15 the word "saints" is found thirty-one times, sometimes from a word meaning, kind, pious, godly, good, holy, merciful. Sometimes from a word meaning sacred, either ceremonially or morally.

The word "saints" in the New Testament comes from a word meaning pure, blameless, religious, ceremonially consecrated.

Does this frighten you?

Called to be saints. Romans 1:7, "To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 1:2, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours."

In II Corinthians 1:1, Ephesians 1:1, Philippians 1:1, Colossians 1:2, Paul addresses the Christians as saints.

The faith was once delivered to the saints. Jude 3, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

The prayers of the saints are precious, Revelation 5:8, "And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints." Revelation 8:3-4, "And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand."

The saints overcome. Revelation 19:8, "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." Revelation 20:9, "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them."

If we then are called saints, because we are baptized into Christ, let us live and walk like saints. This is the prayer of your unworthy servant. God bless us all to His purpose.

Brother William Carpenter

FROM THE BRETHREN HYMNAL

Hymn #666

ALL IS VAIN

"...for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost." Mark 3:11.

All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down. In the second chapter of Acts we read about the Holy Ghost coming among the people. Verse one tells us they were in one accord in one place. They had surrendered themselves fully to Him. They were waiting for Him. They were of one mind and one purpose. Then, "suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat on each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Ghost..." We realize that this was the initial manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

We need not expect cloven tongues of fire, but we need to expect Him. All is vain unless He comes down. Our work for God must be His work. Also, our work for God must be accompanied by obedience, as those in the upper room who waited for Him. They were told to tarry until they be endued with power from on high. They did so.

All is vain unless the Spirit
Of the Holy One comes down.
Brethren, pray and Holy manna
Will be showered all around.

It is easy to fall into form. We gather together on the Lord's Day at the prescribed time, we sing two or three hymns, and the superintendent comes forward and reads a scripture and prays. Then we have Sunday School. Then the Brethren take over. Some of us may say, "Oh no, it is Brother so-and-so's turn to preach." Let us rather pray that the Holy Spirit would influence the speaker, and that He would be present in the services. We all have favorites, but we should rather beg God's will into our lives and the Holy Ghost's presence in what is said. What lessons hath God for me this day?

Much preparation goes into a message, but the best preaching I ever heard came when a preacher found out he was preaching and had no chance to prepare. The Holy Ghost stepped in. The Holy Ghost called upon all the Bible reading and prayer the Brother had engaged in for many years and called these things to remembrance. For it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost. This does not mean that we should not prepare. But if we immerse ourselves daily in His Word and prayer, the Holy Ghost bearing witness, we will be ready when we are called upon, whether it be in the church, or by the magistrates.

Christ will call us home to heaven;
At his table we'll sit down;
Christ will gird himself and serve us
With sweet manna all around.

We have sat at quite a number of Lovefeasts over the years, but as good and wonderful as they are and as blessed as we were to be there, there is no comparison to this, our heavenly home. Imagine, to be served by Jesus! Another hymn says:

Jesus paid it all!
All to Him I owe!
Sin had left a crimson stain:
He washed it white as snow!

We kneel and in utter desperation call out to Him to be saved. As Peter when Jesus bid him walk on the water, Jesus does the rest! All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down!

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TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

Singing The Message Of Christ

Singing has not been a part of the Navajo culture; at least not until they were introduced to Christian songs. One song they can especially relate to is "There'll Be No Dark Valley When Jesus Comes." Nothing can compare to a group of well-scrubbed, bright-eyed Navajo children enthusiastically singing "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

On various occasions we have gone to the hogans and homes to sing the message of Christ. It is a memorable experience to stand under the bright desert stars in front of an open door with a roaring fire in the barrel stove while little brown-faced and bare-footed children stand watching as they listen to the Gospel message in song.

Brother David Skiles

NEWS ITEM

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Our annual revival, August 16 through 25, with Bro. Ray Reed of Dallas Center, Iowa as evangelist is now history. Bro. Reed, a very sincere and concerned Brother in the Lord brought a number of soul searching and dynamic sermons from the scriptures. The meeting was fairly well attended by various denominations and outside people, but partially due to the fact that our revival announcement did not make it to the Bible Monitor few of the Brethren and Sisters from other congregations came. However, eighteen surrounded the Lord's table with Bro. Reed officiating. Other visiting ministers were Elder Rudy Shaffer and our Elder Bro. Ray Stuber.

No new members were added to our number. I feel that the good seed of the Gospel has been sown, and it seems Satan is trying his best to destroy it. We all need to be strong pillars in the Lord's work and getting stronger daily as time is running out and it will be too late to work.

At our last council meeting the church decided to have both a Spring and Fall revival meeting. Our Spring revival is scheduled for March 22 to March 30 with Bro. Paul Hartz, Palmyra, Pennsylvania as evangelist. There will not be a Spring Lovefeast. We will be glad to have as many visiting as can come each evening at 7:30.

Please pray for the Swallow Falls Church, the members and the work here. The harvest truly is ripe. Many are the people who are lost in sin, but the reapers to bring them in are few. We do not have much longer to work for our Master.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1997

January 5 - The Value Of The Law - I Timothy 1:1-13.

1. What is "The end of the commandment"?
2. Paul said the law is for whom?

January 12 - The Value Of Grace - I Timothy 1:14-20.

1. By what was Timothy to war a good warfare?
2. Name some causes of spiritual shipwreck.

January 19 - One God And One Mediator - I Timothy 2:1-7.

1. What is God's universal call to mankind?
2. Why is there only "one mediator between God and men"?

January 26 - Authority - I Timothy 2:8-15.

1. Explain the relationship of authority and headship.
2. What does Paul mean, "she shall be saved in childbearing"?

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR
JANUARY 1997**

January 5 - Abiding in Christ - John 15:1-12, I John 2:2,28.

1. How can we truly abide in Christ?
2. Why should we abide in Christ?

January 12 - Daily Worship - Dan. 6:1-13, Psalm 61:8, Luke 9:23.

1. How did Daniel's daily worship of God prepare him for life?
2. Explain the words of Jesus, "Take up His cross daily".

January 19 - Associations - Ex. 23:2, Psalm 1:1-2, II Cor. 6:14-18.

1. Why is the majority often wrong?
2. Explain the importance of physical, mental and spiritual separation from evil.

January 26 - Expression Of Self - Psalm 100:2, Psalm 147:1, Phil. 4:6-9.

1. How should we express our self to God?
2. Explain how even our thoughts are an expression of ourselves to God.